



January 26, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of more than 200,000 businesses and more than 325,000 individual business leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors with collective assets totaling more than \$9.5 trillion, our organizations and our partnering organizations would like to welcome you to the 114th Congress. As you and your colleagues begin to tackle our nation's most pressing priorities, please know that we stand willing and ready to serve as a resource for you and your office on energy and environmental policies that affect the business community. We represent a diverse set of business interests -- ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies to the small businesses that make up the backbone of our economy -- that understand there is a critical nexus between environmental and economic interests. Our experience has proven that adhering to sensible standards required by the Clean Air Act can spark innovation and drive long term growth.

As the 114th Congress gets underway, we wanted to make you aware of important climate-related policy priorities for our business members and our partnering businesses.

- We support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Clean Power Plan, as the first-ever national standard to limit emissions of carbon pollution from power plants on the ground today, and believe it is an essential step towards spurring innovation, job creation and investment in low and no-carbon technologies as well as new energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.
- We believe EPA's proposal will help provide the clear market signals businesses, entrepreneurs and investors are looking for in long-term energy and environmental policies. Setting a clear direction that includes state-specific limits on carbon pollution will help to resolve uncertainty constraining major investments companies might otherwise consider and putting America's global competitiveness at stake.
- Coupled with the steps currently being taken to cut other power plant emissions -- soot, smog, mercury and other toxic air pollutants -- as well as the proposed carbon standard for new power plants, we believe the Clean Power Plan will encourage a market based transition to a clean energy economy, which will boost investment and create jobs all across the country.
- As representatives of the U.S. business community, we oppose attempts to undermine the EPA's ability to set carbon pollution standards for power plants under the Clean Air Act. Derailing or delaying such standards leads to increased uncertainty and undermines the potential for capital investment and economic growth, weakening the opportunities presented to U.S. businesses by the growing multi-billion global clean energy market.

Our data demonstrate that the business community supports cutting carbon pollution and believes there are economic opportunities associated with a strong, national program:

For example, according to a June 2014 poll conducted by the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC), most business owners are concerned about climate change. More than half of all business owners believe climate change will adversely affect their business. A clear majority, 64 percent, say that government regulation is needed to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. 72 percent of small business owners say they the government should support clean energy incentives.

In fact, many major businesses are already reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable energy. A recent Ceres report, *Power Forward*, found that 60 percent of the Fortune 100 companies have set a greenhouse gas reduction goal, a renewable energy goal, or both.

These businesses understand that clear and consistent policies can help them reach their greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy goals. Recently, over 250 businesses and investors managing over \$800 billion in assets under management signed letters in support of the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Additionally, individual business leaders understand that the Clean Power Plan will provide the national market signal needed to steer private investment to lower carbon solutions. Over 350 members of Environmental Entrepreneurs signed a letter in support of the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Furthermore, more than 1,250 businesses – including giants such as Apple, Microsoft, General Motors, Skanska, Owens Corning, eBay, Intel, PepsiCo, Starbucks, Nestle, Unilever, Walt Disney, Sprint, VF Corporation, and Nike have signed the Climate Declaration, stating that “tackling climate change is one of America’s greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century.”

Our respective organizations look forward to working with you in the 114th Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you and your office. Our organizations have a business presence in every state across the country.

Sincerely,

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About the Groups

The American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) is a growing coalition of business networks and businesses committed to advancing a new vision, framework and policies that support a vibrant, equitable and sustainable economy. The Council brings together the business perspective, experience and political will and strength to stimulate our economy, benefit our communities, and preserve our environment. Today, the organizations that have joined in this partnership represent 200,000 businesses and 325,000 entrepreneurs, owners, executives, investors and business professionals. www.asbcouncil.org

Ceres is a nonprofit organization mobilizing business leadership on climate change, water scarcity and other sustainability challenges. Ceres directs **BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate & Energy Policy)**, an advocacy coalition of 34 major consumer brands committed to working with policymakers to pass meaningful climate and energy legislation. BICEP launched the **Climate Declaration**, a call to action from the American business community to the public, policymakers, and other business leaders to seize the economic opportunity of tackling climate change. Over 1,250 businesses have signed the Climate Declaration. Ceres also directs the **Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR)**, a network of 100 institutional investors with collective assets totaling more than \$13 trillion committed to addressing the risks and seizing the opportunities resulting from climate change and other sustainability challenges. www.ceres.org

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is the independent business voice for the environment. We are a nonpartisan, national community of business leaders who promote sound environmental policies that grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who collectively have been involved in the financing, founding or development of more than 1,700 companies that have created more than 570,000 jobs. Our members manage billions of dollars in venture and private equity capital that will flow over the next several years into new companies. For more information visit www.e2.org.