



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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CHAIRMAN  
House Committee on:  
Global Warming and Climate Change

We write today not to debate the existence or causes of climate change. Instead, we write as representatives of government and business, asking Congress for a change to boost our clean energy economy, reduce our harmful emissions and eliminate our reliance on foreign fossil fuels. Currently, the U.S. spends approximately \$1 billion a day importing oil from foreign nations, many of whom are politically unstable or unfriendly to our country. By 2030, the United States Department of Energy estimates that our spending on foreign oil could cost \$8.5 trillion.

Our reliance on foreign fossil fuels helps other nations enrich themselves at our expense. That's especially dangerous when ten countries from whom we purchase oil are on the State Department's Travel Watch List- a list of countries with "long-term, protracted conditions that make a country unstable or dangerous." Military experts now recognize climate change as a threat. In fact, the Pentagon includes climate change as a major security threat in its 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review report.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama stated clean energy is one of his priorities. He recognized we are competing in a world that is moving away from fossil fuels. Other countries, both allies and enemies, are developing new, low-cost, renewable, clean energy options. While we debate and hesitate, other countries, like China, are taking the lead and garnering new economic and social benefits of more effective policies. America must not lose the opportunity to lead in perhaps the most significant energy trend of the century or see its status as a world leader diminished.



Last session, Massachusetts addressed the problem by beginning to create a clean energy infrastructure; now the Federal Government must do the same. Investing in innovative clean energy and transportation technologies, public transportation, and energy and fuel efficiency is an investment in our long-term national security and economic success as a nation. Additionally, reducing fossil fuel emissions lowers pollution and therefore improves our public health.

Most greenhouse gases are produced by three sectors: transportation, power plants, and residential and commercial buildings. We should therefore focus our investment and policy efforts on those three areas.

In Massachusetts, utilities are teaming with energy-efficiency companies to provide building energy audits, helping home and business owners realize great savings on their energy bills through easy improvements like better insulation and windows, and installing more fuel-efficient furnaces and boilers.

In addition, many businesses are already taking the lead in developing clean energy alternatives and sustainable business practices. Electronics and household products companies are helping consumers save money on their energy bills by producing more energy efficient products and participating in the EPA Energy Star program. Car manufacturers, like Ford, are experiencing a resurgence by developing more fuel efficient vehicles. At the same time, businesses are developing products containing fewer toxic chemicals and non-recyclable components; preserving our environment and improving worker health.

By making changes, companies are realizing extraordinary business opportunities, marketing advantages and cost-saving benefits. They are demonstrating that developing green technologies and using renewable energy can provide Americans with affordable power, create jobs that cannot be outsourced, and help reduce global warming.

Clean energy jobs are growing at a rate 250% faster than the rest of the economy. However, investors are hesitant to move forward without a strong national regulatory framework. The

federal government needs to do its part. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects we can create two million new jobs through comprehensive, clean energy legislation. Two million new jobs! That is the kind of stimulus our economy needs to get Americans back to work and put our planet back on a healthy track.

In this changing world, investors want the regulatory certainty of national policies that allow clean energy to compete with fossil fuels. In June 2009, the House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. (Waxman-Markey Bill). The Senate is considering a very different bill sponsored by John Kerry (D-MA) and Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina). This country needs a strong, long-term regulatory framework, including some type of carbon cap linked to investments in clean energy for current and future economic growth. We urge passage of federal legislation as soon as possible.

Frank I. Smizik, Chairman, House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change  
Stephen Cowell, CEO, Conservation Services Group