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April 4, 2011

Dear Representative:

Oppose H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance, and our fourteen partners, I would like to express our opposition to H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act, which would block the Environmental Protection Agency's duty, as declared by the Supreme Court in its decision in *Massachusetts vs. EPA*, to update vital clean air standards to begin addressing climate change.

This legislation would not only block the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to protect America's families through the Clean Air Act, but it would also directly attack the scientific finding that climate change is a threat to public health and welfare.

In addition to overturning this science-based decision, supported by thousands of renowned scientists and science organizations, the legislation would directly prevent the EPA from regulating the pollution that causes climate change. This includes EPA's clean car standards, which will *lower* American families' gasoline bills. The effect of Upton's bill will be to block EPA's clean car standards and *raise* Americans' gasoline bills.

The BlueGreen Alliance believes that protecting the public's health and welfare results in a stronger economy and that the pending regulation of greenhouse gas pollution has the potential to make our economy more energy efficient and globally competitive in the future. Since 1970, the date of the implementation of the Clean Air Act, our Gross Domestic Product has grown by 204% and private sector employment has grown by 86%.¹ Good jobs and a clean environment go hand-in-hand in the 21st Century, as history has demonstrated over and over again.

Our Alliance worked in the 111th Congress to advance comprehensive climate and energy legislation that would have helped us achieve this balance. But Congress failed to finish the job, and the problem of a worsening environment remains. Unfortunately, because of this, the creation of hundreds of thousands clean energy jobs has been thwarted.

In March of this year the BlueGreen Alliance released a statement on the importance of EPA regulations under the Clean Air Act and the need for action on complementary policies to ensure the U.S. remains competitive while creating millions of U.S. jobs. The statement is attached to this letter. We believe that instead of passing irresponsible legislation like H.R. 910, Congress should work constructively with the EPA and the Administration to implement responsible regulations by passing complementary policies that expedite the growth of clean energy industries. With good policies and responsible regulations, our country can fully realize the job retention and job creating benefits of the clean energy economy.

We look forward to working with you to pass these positive policies, but strongly urge you to reject efforts to move us backwards, and VOTE NO on the Energy Tax Prevention Act.

Sincerely,



David A. Foster
Executive Director

ⁱ *Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020*. Washington, DC: Environmental Protection Agency, 2011. Web. 7 Mar 2011.
<<http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/prospective2.html>>