



May 21, 2009

Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As President Obama recently stated, “The choice we face is not between saving our environment and saving our economy — it’s a choice between prosperity and decline.” The Blue Green Alliance — a partnership of the United Steelworkers (USW), Sierra Club, Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) — strongly agrees. As such, we congratulate Chairmen Waxman and Markey on the introduction of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), and we urge you to work through the legislative process to strengthen and pass the bill out of Committee.

The Blue Green Alliance believes that ACES is a positive step to ensuring that America’s energy and climate challenges are addressed while shifting the nation to a clean energy economy that provides high-road jobs in green manufacturing and skilled construction trades. It is through this combined effort that we can establish a new economic development model that provides opportunities for workers across America by making job creation and environmental integrity the two keys to our country’s future prosperity.

We are pleased that ACES establishes a firm limit on the greenhouse gas pollution that causes global warming in accordance with our climate change principles. We also strongly support a strong Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). Combined with the caps on greenhouse gases, we believe that a strong RES is essential to creating a regulatory framework that supports renewable energy, energy efficiency and new transmission, as they provide direct incentives and market signals to attract private investment at the scale necessary to put millions more Americans back to work and end our dependence on foreign oil.

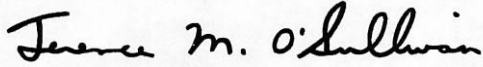
Effective climate policy must take steps to avoid both carbon leakage and job loss. We commend the Committee for including safeguards to ensure that the bill allows American manufacturing and its workers to remain competitive with the rest of the world. The provisions laid out in this legislation move us forward in accomplishing this goal.

The Blue Green Alliance and its partner organizations look forward to continuing to work with you. Together, we can save our economy and the environment by ensuring that the final version of this clean energy economy legislation sincerely combats climate change, creates jobs and places America squarely back on the path to prosperity.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard, International President
United Steelworkers

Carl Pope, Executive Director
Sierra Club



Terence M. O'Sullivan, General President
Laborers' International Union of North America



Frances Beinecke, President
Natural Resources Defense Council



Andy Stern, President
Service Employees International Union



Larry Cohen, President
Communications Workers of America



David Foster, Executive Director
Blue Green Alliance