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The Honorable Todd Stern
Special Envoy for Climate Change
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Stern:

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance, our fourteen labor and environmental partners and the over fifteen million people they represent, we urge you to work to ensure that the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP18) in Doha will advance crucial mitigation, adaptation and financing strategies to set the world on a path that adequately and justly addresses the climate crisis. This year stands as a pivotal point in establishing the roadmap for the years ahead. Now, more than ever, we need the United States to assume a leadership role if the world is to sufficiently take on the global climate change challenge.

The labor and environmental partners of the BlueGreen Alliance strongly advocate for international climate action grounded on science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets. It is of the utmost importance that countries establish a sound emissions reduction regime in Doha in order to keep planetary warming below the 2-degree Celsius threshold. We strongly urge the United States to join a commitment to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to 85 percent below their 1990 levels by the year 2050. With near-term action being crucial, negotiating an agreement under the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (AWG-ADP) for 2015 to go into effect in 2020 should be a priority for the United States.

Commitment to these primary goals is critical, but they will require financial backing to make the work operational. We urge the United States to show support for a strong and substantial Green Climate Fund. With the fast-start finance period coming to a close this year, we need to identify resources that are available for the 2013-2015 time period that can be scaled up over time, and we must establish a framework for moving forward on Long Term Finance. In this process, consultation of outside stakeholders will be most beneficial in reaching agreement on effective and diverse sources of funding as well as innovative market measures.

However, amidst these discussions and negotiations, we cannot forget the human side of our current global situation. A Just Transition and adaptation must be part of the foundation of the work going forward. While inaction is the worst option for workers and communities, policymakers must also recognize that climate policies may have a negative impact on workers if not crafted and implemented mindfully. We must strive to make these policies beneficial to workers and our environment. We

join with our brothers and sisters in the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in advocating for a Just Transition. To paraphrase ITUC, a Just Transition, defined by ambitious objectives and containing a long-term sustainable industrial strategy based on decent work, social protection, skills development, economic diversification policies, consultation and collective bargaining, and respect for the rights of trade unions and communities can facilitate the change we need.

Severe weather has devastated many communities in our country and around the world. Establishing a work plan for the Adaptation Committee as well as setting in motion the process of designing National Adaptation Plans and further implementing actions that increase the resilience of countries to climate change are key initiatives for Doha. Back home, we must continue to build out our national adaptation portfolio and to provide our local and state authorities the assistance they need as they prepare for changes that have already begun.

While committing to advancing international efforts in Doha, the United States must also support that position by acting here at home. Getting the economy back on solid ground and bolstering job growth are issues high on the minds of Americans. Luckily, efforts to make our nation cleaner, more efficient and more resilient will achieve those goals. A comprehensive effort to significantly reduce greenhouse gases and reinvest in an American clean economy still offers the best outcome for workers and the environment. However, in the absence of the political will to achieve such an outcome, there are a number of crucial policies that must move forward. Historic fuel economy standards for our nation's automobiles and proposed carbon standards for new power plants represented a significant and laudable down payment on America's needed mitigation efforts. We must defend and build upon those efforts by finalizing the Tier 3 standard for light-duty vehicles, finalizing the proposed carbon standard, establishing a properly crafted carbon standard for existing power plants, and extending clean energy tax incentives.

We look forward to working with you to achieve a global response to the climate crisis. America stands apart in its ability to shape the world for future generations. Inaction, or inadequate action, will undeniably leave our children with a harsher world, where climate disruption and economic dislocation may be the daily reality. The time for action is quickly passing. Let us not miss this opportunity to act before this window closes.

Sincerely,



David Foster
Blue Green Alliance

Cc: Secretary Hillary Clinton