



September 18, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Request of Support for Local Government Climate Action in Federal Legislation**

Dear Chairman Boxer:

We write on behalf of Climate Communities, a growing network of hundreds of local government officials across America, to commend your ongoing leadership on federal climate policy and to request that the legislation you present to your Committee for consideration this fall include strong support for the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change.

Local governments have taken the lead in combating climate change, investing increasingly scarce resources in a wide range of actions, including providing low-cost financing for energy efficiency and renewable retrofits of existing buildings; setting stringent building efficiency standards; building community-scale renewable and distributed energy; promoting smart growth and increased mass transit to reduce vehicle miles travelled; and developing green jobs and infrastructure. While partnerships with states and the private sector are essential to successful local action, without direct federal support and resources to local governments, the potential for effective clean energy and climate protection strategies will certainly fall short.

Therefore, as the Senate Environment Committee prepares to mark up clean energy and climate legislation, we respectfully request that you include the following provisions, which will empower localities to achieve significant energy savings and emissions reductions:

- ***Provide direct support for local climate action*** by allocating 5% of the carbon trading allowances through the ***Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants***;
- ***Enhance local transportation efficiency*** by allocating 10% of the allowances to finance additional investment in our mass transit and passenger rail systems; support development around transit stops; and make neighborhoods safer for bikes and pedestrians, as proposed in the Clean TEA legislation introduced by Senators Carper and Specter;
- ***Support local government green infrastructure, efficiency, and clean energy projects*** that reduce carbon emissions by ensuring their eligibility for offset credits;

- **Facilitate retooling of closed manufacturing plants** and other underutilized economic sites with new green jobs by providing 2% of allowances for Economic Development Administration redevelopment grants to local governments; and
- **Support local government adaptation planning** by allocating 1% of allowances to support local government initiatives to plan for the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels, drought, wildfires, flooding, and storms.

Again, we strongly support your efforts to pass landmark clean energy and climate legislation this year and we respectfully request that you work with your colleagues to steer this legislation in a direction that can unleash major, sustainable local government action on climate change.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical and historic bill.

Sincerely,



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Sacramento County, CA  
Climate Communities Co-Chair



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King County, WA  
Climate Communities Co-Chair

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