



*3Form ♦ AEE Solar Bryson Computers ♦ CAO Group ♦ CitizenRE ♦ Colvin Engineering ♦ Eco Energy Systems ♦ ETC Group ♦ Gardner Engineering Alternative Energy Services ♦ Green Building Center ♦ Green Power Solutions ♦ GSBS Architects ♦ Holliday United Church of Christ ♦ Innovision Property Group, LLC ♦ City of Moab Mayor David Sakrison ♦ MHTN Architects Inc. Mor-Lite Inc. ♦ Park City Board of Realtors ♦ Park City Home Builders Association ♦ Park City Mountain Resort ♦ Petzl America Inc. ♦ Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker ♦ Schreiner Video Productions ♦ Synergistic Systems ♦ Takashi ♦ Town of Alta Mayor Tom Pollard ♦ USANA Health Sciences ♦ Utah Catholic Diocese, Peace and Justice Commission ♦ Utah Clean Energy ♦ Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment ♦ Utah Solar Energy Association ♦ Utah United Religions Initiative ♦ Ward Property Advisors ♦ Wasatch Wind ♦ Western Grid Group*

The Honorable Representative Jim Matheson  
2434 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2009

RE: National Climate Legislation

Dear Representative Matheson:

We, the thirty-four undersigned businesses, organizations, and local governments, are writing to respectfully urge you to pass bipartisan legislation to create a national market-based program to limit carbon emissions, with the ultimate goal of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

The potential impacts of climate change on Utah's economy, agricultural sectors, precious water resources, tourism industry, and unique environment are cause for concern and demand immediate action. The Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change report to Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., identified the following findings regarding climate change in Utah:<sup>1</sup>

- Utah is projected to warm more than the average for the entire globe and more than coastal regions of the contiguous United States;
- The expected consequences of this warming are fewer frost days, longer growing seasons, and more heat waves;
- Ongoing greenhouse gas emissions at or above current levels will likely result in a decline in Utah's mountain snowpack and the threat of severe and prolonged episodic drought in Utah is real.

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<sup>1</sup> Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change Report to Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., October 3, 2007; [http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC\\_Climate/final\\_report.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate/final_report.htm).

This imminent challenge also poses an opportunity for innovation and creative market-based solutions to limit carbon dioxide emissions (such as a cap-and-trade policy). Strong federal policies can send a positive market signal that stimulates private capital investments in energy efficiency and clean alternative energy such as wind, solar, and biomass. Such investments will create new job opportunities, and Utah, with our diverse energy resources and dynamic workforce, is uniquely positioned to reap the benefits of this new economic development. According to a recent report,<sup>2</sup> nearly 7,000 jobs will be created in Utah by 2020 if we achieve the state's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals.

It is imperative that Congress craft cost-effective and thoughtful solutions to the urgent issue of climate change – policies that spur new jobs, maintain economic competitiveness and provide a hedge against volatile energy prices – all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment. We would like to see the following key components included in any proposed federal legislation:

- **National Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.** Energy efficiency is the cheapest, most readily implemented energy source in the country with immense job growth and energy savings potential. Setting a national standard of improving energy efficiency (e.g. 10-15% by 2020) is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Domestic Competitiveness.** Ensure that U.S. manufacturers are not put at a disadvantage. The legislation should give incentives to U.S. companies for job-retention and make adjustments to foreign manufacturers' U.S.-bound products.
- **Job Creation and Training.** Curriculum and training programs, including apprenticeship and worker-transition programs, will be critical to the success of a U.S. climate program.
- **Consumer Assistance.** A mechanism should be included to help consumers with any increase in the cost of energy and goods resulting from this legislation. This could be targeted at low-income households most susceptible to even small changes in consumer goods, or an off-setting income tax cut for consumers.
- **Renewable Energy Technologies.** Policies and programs to increase the adoption of renewable energy technologies (both distributed and utility-scale) as a means to simultaneously diversify our energy portfolio and spur economic development, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Now is the time for Congress to act. The longer we postpone the adoption of policies, the more expensive and difficult it will be to reduce emissions enough to avoid the worst impacts. We urge you to support climate change legislation that will create Utah jobs while reducing America's contribution to climate change.

Sincerely,

The undersigned businesses, organizations, and local governments.

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<sup>2</sup> K.P. Knutsen, K. Wikstrom, M.R. Goldberg, S. Wright, "Building the Clean Energy Economy: Jobs and Economic Development in Utah," February, 2009. [http://utahcleanenergy.org/files/u1/Executive\\_SummaryFINAL.pdf](http://utahcleanenergy.org/files/u1/Executive_SummaryFINAL.pdf)

## Undersigned Businesses, Organizations, and Local Governments

### **3 Form**

#### **Erika Brown, Environmental Coordinator**

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### **AEE Solar**

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### **Citizen RE**

#### **Jessica Briefer French, Independent**

#### **Ecopreneur**

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### **City of Moab**

#### **Mayor David Sakrison**

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### **Colvin Engineering Associates, Inc.**

#### **Thomas. D. Colvin, P.E., President**

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### **Eco-Energy Systems & Consulting**

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### **The Green Building Center**

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