

June 7, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned college and university presidents, share your vision for transforming the United States to a clean energy economy. Our institutions are meeting the challenges of climate change by working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and teaching our graduates to do the same. We join together to urge you to devote your time, attention, and personal leadership to the adoption of legislation this year to put a price on carbon, with full assurance of our active engagement in this effort.

We believe the time has come for our nation to begin to shift to clean energy. The Deepwater Horizon disaster, a national tragedy of as yet unknown dimensions, will require years to repair the damage to our environment and economy. However, with your courageous leadership, history can mark 2010 as the turning point to a more sustainable future for America.

As you know, the Gulf disaster is prompting many Americans to think twice about how we produce and use energy. The daily reports are grim reminders that continued reliance on “cheap” fossil fuels costs our nation dearly. The cost to the nation of this addiction entails more than the repair of recurrent disasters. In addition, more and more Americans have deep and rising concern about our heavy reliance on foreign oil, which drains \$1 billion a day from our economy and puts our security at risk. We foresee a national demand for action as the majority of Americans gain an understanding of these realities.

Mr. President, the American people need your help in understanding why putting a price on carbon makes good sense as the best way to nurture alternative technologies, create millions of new clean energy jobs, and assure U.S. competitiveness and security in an increasingly interdependent global society of nations. In addition, the Congress needs your help in making the tough choices and tradeoffs required to enact balanced, strong and fair climate and energy legislation this year.

For our part, we pledge to work to elevate the national dialogue about how energy, the environment and our economy interrelate and to do all we can to prepare our graduates to thrive as the nation transitions to a clean energy economy. For additional information, please contact Tony Cortese, President of Second Nature, at acortese@secondnature.org.

Sincerely,

Esther Barazzone, President, Chatham University (PA)
Christopher R.L. Blake, President, Mount Mercy College (IA)
Donald N. Burton, President, Dunlap-Stone University (AZ)
Jack P. Calareso, President, Anna Maria College (MA)

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