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July 30, 2009

The Honorable John Kerry
Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Lugar
Ranking Member, SFRC
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our environmental, development and other organizations, we thank you for your unwavering commitment and leadership in addressing the challenges of climate change and energy, both nationally and internationally. As the Senate takes up climate and energy legislation this year we urge you to draft a strong climate bill that ensures meaningful investments to support international climate adaptation and spur international clean energy technology cooperation.

Making these investments is vital to rebuilding our nation's global leadership and achieving an international climate agreement in Copenhagen this December that will put us on a path toward solving global climate change. **We urge you to dedicate at least an additional 2% of allowances for international adaptation and 1% of allowances for international clean energy technology at the outset above the levels in the House-passed legislation (bringing the total investments to 3% and 2% respectively).** We also urge the Senate to maintain the 5% allocation set-aside for the international reduced deforestation program adopted by the House.

The climate and energy challenge requires not only national action, but also a global partnership to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change and establish a clean energy and climate-resilient global economy. The Senate has a special appreciation for the importance of international action and the role that domestic legislation plays globally. It is clear that what the U.S. brings to the international negotiating table will have a significant influence on what other countries offer and on the achievement of a global agreement.

The strength of the United States' position in the international climate negotiations will largely depend on two factors: the level of emissions reductions we commit to make and the level of financial support we offer for international adaptation and clean technology. The House bill's 2020 target can and should be strengthened, and the allowances dedicated to reducing international deforestation should be maintained to help U.S. mitigation action get closer to

what the science says is necessary to avert severe disruptions to the Earth's climate. But, in order to ultimately succeed in Copenhagen the U.S. target will need to be complemented by substantial investments in international finance.

Making these investments should be part of the larger strategy to build a clean energy and climate-resilient economic foundation in the United States and internationally. U.S. businesses and workers will thrive if we seize this opportunity to be a world leader in driving clean energy innovation and providing the technologies and services needed to build resilience to climate change impacts. As you know, international investments are also essential to furthering global security. As the Military Advisory Board of the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) has noted, climate change is a "threat multiplier" that poses serious challenges to our national security due to migration, humanitarian disasters, and conflicts over scarce resources, and requires an international response by our nation.

The level of international investments in the House-passed legislation falls far short of a reasonable U.S. contribution towards assisting developing countries, including least developed countries, to adapt to climate impacts and adopt development pathways that reduce emissions. Since adaptation will receive fewer resources from private financial flows, and because the negative impacts of climate change will disproportionately hit the poorest of the poor within those countries, adaptation in particular requires additional public investments. Increasing the adaptation and clean technology allocations will help demonstrate the seriousness of the United States in the negotiations.

America can lead the world on a new course. As we approach Copenhagen, and the upcoming G20 and UN high level events, all eyes will be on the United States to demonstrate a strong contribution to action on climate change.

Our organizations are prepared to stand behind you in this effort and look forward to working with you to move strong climate legislation forward.

Sincerely,

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World Wildlife Fund

cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin
Chairman Barbara Boxer, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Chairman Max Baucus, Senate Finance Committee
Chairman Tom Harkin, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Chairman Jeff Bingaman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman John Rockefeller, Senate Commerce, Science and Technology Committee
Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee