



October 4, 2006

Honorable George W. Bush
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

Your administration has a distinguished record of supporting commonsense strategies for addressing environmental challenges without disregard to America's economic needs. The recent release of the Climate Change Technology Program Strategic Plan (CCTP) is another positive step in this direction.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency are important strategic goals that will create long-term economic and environmental benefits. However, abrupt, rigid and harsh changes to energy consumption would cause severe economic dislocation that would impact countless people around the world. A disruptive approach is not only unconscionable, but unwarranted. The CCTP makes significant headway in addressing climate change without depriving individuals of their basic right to work and provide for themselves or their families. Its focus on innovation and technology is an approach that is balanced, and is one that is strongly supported by the business community.

It is extremely important that this approach not be altered in any way.

Some would have us impose harsh mandatory caps on carbon emissions, similar to the emissions trading scheme adopted by the European Union in 2001. But even a cursory

examination of this plan shows it has been nothing short of an abject failure. It has failed to reduce emissions while subjecting schools, military bases and hospitals to onerous energy charges. The British research group Open Europe calls it “an environmental and economic failure” and “an administrative nightmare.”

Any type of cap and trade system essentially amounts to a regressive tax on consumers, one that, if implemented here, would cost Americans an estimated \$300 to \$400 billion per year. This type of plan is especially hard on facilities utilizing coal, a fuel that accounts for over 50% of all U.S. electricity generation. If the U.S. were to adopt an emissions trading scheme, small businesses, low-income families, seniors – all consumers – would see their utility bills skyrocket.

The millions of members and activists that make up our organizations believe that America’s free market system -- one that is unparalleled and proven with respect to developing innovative solutions in solving the world’s most pressing challenges – must be the sole vehicle to address global climate changes.

We applaud your commitment and belief in the power of U.S. innovation, and market oriented approaches. We share your confidence in their power to effect meaningful environmental change without causing irreparable and long-term damage to our economy. Please do not hesitate to call upon us to help support your important initiative.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Karen Kerrigan
President and CEO
Small Business Entrepreneurship
Council

Lewis K Uheler
President
National Tax Limitation Committee

Bill Lauderback
Executive Vice President
American Conservative Union

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom

Harry C. Alford
President and CEO
National Black Chamber of Commerce

William Greene, Ph.D.
President
RightMarch.com

Jim Martin
President
60 Plus Association

Chuck Muth
President
Citizens Outreach