

December 21, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: State Voice Group Comments on Proceeding with the USEPA's Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule under the Clean Air Act

Dear Senators McConnell, Reid and Rockefeller:

The "State Voice" group is a bipartisan, regionally diverse coalition of lead state environmental officials working together to promote a strong national climate change program in the U.S. We, the environmental regulators who comprise the State Voice group, write to express our strong opposition to any attempt to bar the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) from regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution under the Clean Air Act (CAA). We hope you share our view that EPA action is needed to confront the dangers posed by unabated climate change.

For example, the Senate should not take action to revoke implementation of the USEPA's GHG "Tailoring Rule," which incorporates GHG considerations into Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V permitting programs for large stationary sources. We believe the USEPA's Tailoring Rule demonstrates the viability and flexibility of the CAA as a tool for reducing GHG pollution. It achieves a workable balance between the need to minimize additional administrative burdens imposed on states, to the extent possible, and our shared desire to achieve the environmental benefits while remaining consistent with the intent of the CAA.

The State Voice group is on record calling for a robust state-federal partnership as a key tenet of comprehensive national policy to combat climate change and build a new clean energy economy. The CAA will continue to provide an effective and proven framework for achieving national environmental and public health goals, including reducing GHG pollution. Over the past four decades, the CAA has delivered tremendous public health and environmental benefits, including significant reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen, lead, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and other pollutants. We believe that USEPA regulatory oversight of GHG emissions under this statute will deliver similar benefits.

We therefore strongly support the USEPA's efforts under the federal CAA to protect the health and welfare of the American people from the dangers of climate change resulting from GHG pollution. The Senate should guarantee that the well-established and proven tools of the CAA remain available to assist in achieving the nation's GHG reduction goals. It would be short-sighted for the Senate to hinder the use of one of the few effective approaches currently available to address our nation's critical energy and environmental challenges.

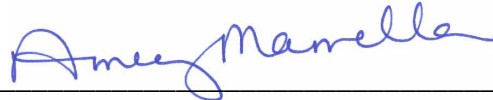
We ask you to ensure that all of the tools to tackle the tremendous challenge of climate change remain available. In particular, we urge the Senate to eschew any attempt to delay or otherwise limit USEPA's authority under the CAA to regulate GHGs.

Sincerely,

The Members of the State Voice Group



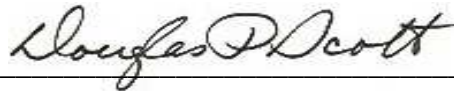
Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board



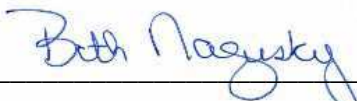
Amey Marella, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



Collin O'Mara, Secretary
Delaware DNREC



Douglas P. Scott, Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



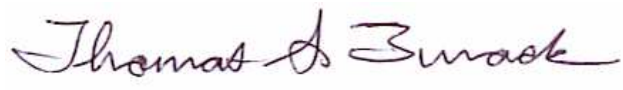
Beth Nagusky, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Environmental Protection



Robert M. Summers, Acting Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment



Laurie Burt, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

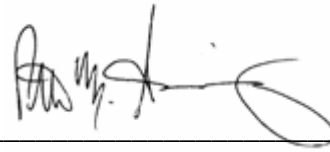


Tom Burack, Commissioner
New Hampshire DES



Ron Curry, Secretary

New Mexico Environment Department



Peter Iwanowicz, Acting Commissioner

New York Department of Environmental Conservation



Dick Pedersen, Director

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality



Ted Sturdevant, Director

Washington State Department of Ecology

- cc: Senator Richard C. Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Senator John McCain
Senator Jon L. Kyl
Senator Blanche L. Lincoln
Mark L. Pryor
Senator Dianne Feinstein
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Senator Mike Johanns
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Senator Frank R. Lautenberg
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Tom Udall
Senator Charles E. Schumer
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Senator Richard Burr
Senator Kay R. Hagan

Senator Kent Conrad
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Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jim DeMint
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator John Thune
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Bob Corker
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Robert F. Bennett
Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Senator Bernard Sanders
Senator Jim Webb

Senator Mark R. Warner

Senator Patty Murray

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Robert C. Byrd

Senator Herbert H. Kohl

Senator Russ Feingold

Senator Michael B. Enzi

Senator John Barrasso