



May 29, 2008

The Honorable James Webb
United States Senate
140 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act and Provide Resources
for Local Government Climate Change Action**

Dear Senator Webb:

We write to urge your support for the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (S. 3036) and the inclusion of provisions that provide direct resources for local government actions that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as cleaner transportation, green buildings, renewable energy, and sustainable development.

Climate change is a critical global challenge that could lead to an increasing number of droughts, greater risk of wildfires, more flooding, rising sea levels, and severe weather events. By addressing the climate challenge, America can help achieve some of its most important national objectives – energy independence and national security, economic competitiveness and job creation, protection of public health and the environment, and sustainable community development.

The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act would create a market-based system to substantially reduce GHG emissions by 2050. This important legislation will achieve significant GHG reductions from electric power, transportation, manufacturing, and natural gas sources through a “cap-and-trade” system that harnesses the incentives of the free market to reduce pollution. The bill system is modeled closely on America’s successful efforts to address acid rain.

In April 2008, local government leaders from more than 40 communities met with Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT) and John Warner (R-VA), the sponsors of the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, to demonstrate the essential role of local governments in using cleaner transportation, green buildings, alternative energy, and sustainable development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change. During a press conference with *Climate Communities* members, Senators Boxer, Lieberman and Warner publicly pledged to amend their legislation to provide federal resources for climate actions at the local government level.

Local government action is critical to addressing America’s climate change challenge. Cities and counties have the ability to promote, encourage and lead the effort to reduce GHG pollution.

Localities are uniquely suited to implement land use planning, building codes, infrastructure improvements, green technology, sustainable economic development and other local actions that must underlie climate change progress. Local governments are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change. It is local governments that must take the lead in dealing with drought, water shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, infrastructure disruption, and other impacts of climate change.

Mayors from more than 800 cities have signed the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement pledging to take actions in their communities to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets for reductions in GHG emissions. Approximately 30 counties representing over 35 million people have joined Cool Counties and pledged to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050.

In Virginia, local governments are developing innovative climate change programs and policies and serve as the laboratories for innovative approaches for reducing GHG emissions. For example:

- **Alexandria** is currently embarking on an Eco-City Alexandria initiative aimed at holistically moving the city toward environmental sustainability. Alexandria is also working towards increasing open space, investing in renewable energy resources, and promoting sustainable and green building practices in all municipal buildings.
- **Arlington County** has made a substantial commitment to reduce GHG emissions from government operations by 10 percent from 2000 to 2012, has performed outreach to encourage and assist practical actions by residents and members of the local business community, and is working to establish a community-wide emissions reduction target.
- **James City County** has set a goal of reducing its petroleum use for transportation purposes by 20 percent by the year 2010.
- **Loudoun County**, one of the fastest growing counties in the country, is building new fire stations heated and cooled through geothermal systems and plans to upgrade existing county facilities to increase energy efficiency.

However, communities are only in the early stages of confronting the climate challenge, and there is a critical need for capacity building at the local level to handle the substantial technical, institutional, and organizational issues that are involved in establishing and implementing local climate change programs.

Senators Boxer, Lieberman and Warner have amended their legislation to provide significant federal resources to help cities and counties reduce GHG emissions. Their manager's amendment provides \$136 billion through 2050 for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, which would enable cities and counties to enact strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions, cut total energy use, and improve energy efficiency. The bill also dedicates significant resources for local mass transit projects.

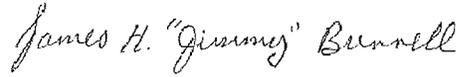
Again, we encourage you to support the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act and ensure that the legislation supports local government efforts to reduce GHG emissions. We look forward to working with you to develop an effective local-federal partnership to address climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Teresa Altemus in black ink, with the letters "WAS" written in a smaller font at the end of the signature.

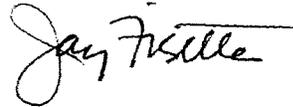
Supervisor Teresa Altemus
Gloucester County

Handwritten signature of James H. "Jimmy" Burrell in black ink.

Supervisor James Burrell
New Kent County

Handwritten signature of William D. Euille in black ink.

Mayor William D. Euille
City of Alexandria

Handwritten signature of Jay Fiset in black ink.

Board Member Jay Fiset
Arlington County

Handwritten signature of Christina Luman-Bailey in black ink, with the letters "WAS" written in a smaller font at the end of the signature.

Council Member Christina J. Luman-Bailey
City of Hopewell

Handwritten signature of Andrea McGimsey in black ink.

Supervisor Andrea McGimsey
Loudoun County

Handwritten signature of John J. McGlennon in black ink.

Supervisor John McGlennon
James City County

Handwritten signature of Dave Norris in black ink.

Mayor Dave Norris
City of Charlottesville

Handwritten signature of Dennis S. Rooker in black ink.

Supervisor Dennis S. Rooker
Albemarle County

Handwritten signature of Ron Rordam in black ink.

Mayor Ron Rordam
Town of Blacksburg

Handwritten signature of Sally Thomas in black ink, with the letters "WAS" written in a smaller font at the end of the signature.

Supervisor Sally Thomas
Albemarle County

Handwritten signature of Jeanne Zeidler in black ink.

Mayor Jeanne Zeidler
City of Williamsburg