

**National Member Agencies**

American Jewish Committee  
American Jewish Congress  
Anti-Defamation League  
B'nai B'rith  
Hadassah  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
Jewish War Veterans  
National Council  
of Jewish Women  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Orthodox Jewish  
Congregations of America  
United Synagogue  
of Conservative Judaism  
Women's American ORT  
Women's League  
for Conservative Judaism

May 30, 2008

Dear Senator:

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) urge you to strengthen and support The America's Climate Security Act when it comes to the Senate Floor next week. A vote in support of this landmark legislation will allow the United States to become a leader in the worldwide fight against climate change.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences recently declared that, "the scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action." Jewish tradition also demands action. Indeed, the Torah declares, "Justice, justice, you shall pursue." (Deuteronomy 16:20). Yet, to date, the American response to climate change has been fundamentally unjust. Americans constitute only 5% of the world's population, yet generate 25% of all greenhouse gases. At the same time, developing countries face enormous burdens to adapt to the harm caused by our emissions, despite being the least historically responsible for climate change. Americans must take a stand to reduce this impact. America's Climate Security Act takes important steps in the right direction.

Indeed, we are particularly pleased with the effort this legislation makes to reduce the impact of climate change on the world's poor. Our tradition teaches us to "Speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:9). The international poverty provisions in the bill help realize this moral imperative.

We also urge you to support amendments to the Climate Security Act that would help ensure that promised reductions comport with those that the scientific community tells us are necessary to avert the most serious effects of climate change. To that end, please support amendments that speed near-term cuts in global warming pollution and set more ambitious targets for long-term cuts. We also ask you to oppose any weakening



amendments that will compromise the integrity of the emissions cap or slow the overall emissions reduction timeline.

Again we urge you to strengthen and support this critical legislation. The longer we delay, the greater the impacts, and the more dramatically we will have to cut emissions in future years to achieve the same results.

Sincerely,



Hadar Susskind  
Washington Director  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs



Jennifer Kefer  
Climate and Energy Program Coordinator  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life