

May 30, 2008

Dear Senator:

I am writing to express the support of The Nature Conservancy for the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner substitute amendment to the Climate Security Act, S. 3036 which is expected to be considered by the full Senate beginning June 2.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to protect natural habitat for plants and animals in the U.S. and around the world with particular attention to relationship of nature to the well being of people. We accomplish this mission by working on tangible conservation projects in communities in every state and in 34 other countries. Analysis by our scientists, most of whom work in the field, tells us that climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat both to natural systems and to the hundreds of millions of people who depend upon those systems for their livelihoods, health and welfare.

The Climate Security Act, as revised in the manager's substitute amendment released last week, in our view, represents a sound overall framework for addressing climate change and for helping human and natural communities adapt to the impacts of increasing global temperatures and rising sea levels.

This bi-partisan bill creates a flexible cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a lower cost by tapping the power of free markets. It includes important policies to advance energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. It provides assistance to low-income families and others to ease the transition to a low-carbon economy and protects American industry to ease the transition to a cleaner future. Of importance to us, it uses the conservation and restoration of forests in the U.S. and elsewhere as one of several strategies to slow the increase of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

We support the overall approach used in the Climate Security Act and applaud many of the more detailed provisions included in the recent amendments, but we recognize that more must be done through the amendment process in the Senate to strengthen and refine its provisions to assure that we remain on a path to protect our natural systems and to ensure that it accomplishes its goals in the most equitable and efficient way possible.

While our mission is the conservation of nature and the many values natural systems provide to people, in our efforts to address the threat of climate change to natural systems we have found common ground with business, labor, human welfare and religious interests. We expect this is so because we all believe that taking action on climate change through the Climate Security Act now will advance America along the path to a new prosperity that is compatible with nature and sustainable in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie K. Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'M'.