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Building and Construction Trades Department

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May 21, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

The 13 national and international unions that comprise the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and their approximately 2.5 million members are pleased to endorse the Boxer Substitute Amendment to the Lieberman - Warner Climate Security Act. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in addressing one of the most pressing problems of our time.

This crucial legislation, with the changes contained in your Substitute Amendment, will promote clean-energy infrastructure investments while providing enormous economic opportunity for thousands of highly skilled building and construction trades workers, and result in meaningful progress toward combating global warming.

We believe the Boxer Substitute takes a balanced approach to climate change — real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while protecting America's economic growth and competitiveness. The Substitute's investment provisions will accelerate the development of new clean-energy technologies and create the many good jobs necessary to build and support these new industries. Your program to assist in deploying low carbon technologies is particularly welcome.

We appreciate the improvements you have made to ensure that our nation's effort to address global warming is not yet another reason for energy intensive industries to move offshore. In addition, we appreciate the efforts made to enhance the cost-containment provisions of the bill and provide additional flexibility to regulated facilities. We believe these provisions could help ease the transition to a low-carbon future should advanced coal technology development fail to proceed at the expected pace.

Additionally, we strongly endorse the worker assistance and training provisions of the Boxer Substitute. Ensuring a just transition for displaced workers and providing them with the tools needed to seek new opportunities in emerging industries is, we believe, a critical component of any climate change proposal.

We appreciate that you have not fundamentally compromised your longstanding commitment to promote environmental sustainability while at the same time creating good jobs, ensuring fair wages, and protecting the basic rights of working Americans. Indeed, we share your belief in these fundamental values.

Again, we appreciate your leadership, and we thank you for your consideration.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mark H. Ayers
President