International Union of Operating Engineers
AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

May 20, 2008

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

Dear Chairman Boxer:

On behalf of the 405,000 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, thank you for your leadership on S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act. We commend you and your colleagues for your commitment to bringing federal cap-and-trade climate legislation before the United States Senate. This legislation addresses, arguably, the most important environmental issue of our time – global warming.

While recognizing the complex nature of any legislation dealing with such a complicated issue as global warming, the IUOE feels that S. 2191 is a good faith initial effort, and we are prepared to work with you and other Senators to continue to address these critical issues for our nation and its economy as we move forward in the legislative process.

The IUOE has closely monitored the bill's progress through the Environment and Public Works Committee. The bill has improved as the concerns of a wide variety of interests, particularly concerns of the Labor community, have been addressed in an effort to mitigate harm to the economy and prevent unnecessary disruption to workers and industries.

At the 37th General Convention of the IUOE held last month, the delegates adopted a comprehensive energy resolution that recognizes the pressing challenges that face the Nation. In the resolution, we stated, "Human use of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming, leading to a rise in sea levels, changes in climate patterns, and threats to coastal areas." These challenges demand a solution – a balanced solution that ensures the Nation's economic vitality, growth, and prosperity. That is precisely the balance you have attempted to strike with the revised version of America's Climate Security Act.

The key elements that have been addressed by your substitute amendment are as follows:

- Trade-related provisions that ensure that American workers are not placed at a competitive disadvantage in relation to Brazil, Russia, India, China, and other countries
- Effective and enforceable targets necessary to achieve climate stabilization
- Policies designed to maximize environmental benefits while minimizing the cost of the program to hard-working families
- Strategic use of auction proceeds for investing in zero- and low-carbon technologies
- Cost-containment elements that guarantee a gradual transition to a carbon-constrained economy
- Early investment in the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technology
- Key labor standards for the investment of finite public resources
- Training investments to create the skilled workforce of the future.

Based on these considerations, the International Union Operating Engineers endorses S. 2191, as modified by your substitute amendment.

Sincerely,

Vincent J. Giblin
General President