Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

May 22, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
456 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

I want to congratulate you for the leadership you have demonstrated in developing comprehensive and meaningful global climate legislation. Seattle is supportive of the newly introduced substitute amendments to the Lieberman Warner Climate Security Act and believes it represents a step forward in several meaningful ways.

Your substitute amendment includes several provisions that recognize the important role cities will play in helping the country meet the reduction targets required under the Climate Security Act. Most importantly, it provides, through 2050, $136 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). It also increases funding by $171 billion for mass transit; $190 billion for green jobs; and $51 billion for a new program for construction of highly-efficient commercial buildings and retrofits to existing buildings. All these measures are the building blocks to achieving a lower carbon future.

Seattle owns and operates a municipal electric utility and the amendment has improved upon the section that distributes some allowances to load serving utilities. The formula appropriately recognizes avoided electricity sales, which will encourage utilities to be aggressive in conservation and energy efficiency. It also ensures that a significant portion of these allowances are dedicated to protect low income energy consumers.

It is important that our country move quickly to adopt a comprehensive program to mitigate and adapt to the impact of global warming pollution, and the manager's amendment you have introduced is a step in that direction.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray