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July 9, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to oppose S. 3072, a bill sponsored by Senator Rockefeller that would block any work by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act to set any standards to curb global warming pollution from power plants and other industrial sources for at least two years.

Action against global warming is long overdue, but the Rockefeller bill is effectively a stop-work order. It would not only block global warming pollution limits for two years, but it would also prohibit EPA from conducting research and information collection on what emission reduction technologies are available and at what cost. It would also bar outreach and consultation with industry, states, or other stakeholders. Ultimately, the bill would create far reaching regulatory uncertainty for far longer than the two-year delay it nominally seeks to impose. This is not a responsible approach given the urgency of responding to global warming.

The Supreme Court held in its landmark 2007 decision that EPA must act if it finds, based on the science, that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants endanger public health and the environment. Accordingly, EPA issued consensus national standards on April 1 to cut global warming pollution from new vehicles that enjoyed the support of car makers, labor, states, and environmentalists. And on May 13, EPA issued a rule requiring that the biggest new and expanded pollution sources start applying available and affordable pollution control measures only in 2011.

Every year we wait to address global warming pollution, we delay investments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology that will be the key to economic success in the future and we dig ourselves deeper into a future of heat waves, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events. Moving forward with common-sense and cost-effective controls on global warming pollutants will create jobs, reduce America's oil dependence, and jump-start a vibrant clean energy economy.

When Congress adopts new climate change legislation, it must not overlook the Clean Air Act, one of our nation's strongest and most effective pieces of legislation. For 40 years, this landmark law has been successful in reducing dozens of different air pollutants, protecting the health and the environment of millions of Americans. In fact, studies show that the benefits of the Clean Air Act outweigh the costs by as much as a 42-to-1 margin. Over these years, our economy has continued to grow strongly. History shows us that EPA action on global warming pollution will bring comparable benefits to the American people.

A comprehensive climate and energy policy that builds upon the successes of the Clean Air Act will create jobs, make our nation safer and more secure, and reduce harmful pollution at the same time. Delaying long-overdue action under the Clean Air Act will only hold these advances back. Again, we urge you to oppose any effort to obstruct or delay action on climate change under this landmark law.