



Presidential Climate Action Project

Dear Senators John McCain and Barack Obama,

In early September, images from NASA satellites revealed that the Arctic ice cap has become an island for the first time in modern history, showing the extent of global warming's impact on the North Pole.

On September 9, the U.S. intelligence community previewed its forecast for the next President. It concluded that the impacts of climate change are accelerating, and by 2025, droughts, food shortages and scarcity of fresh water will plague large swaths of the globe.

We are losing ground in the race for the future.

One of you will preside over the United States at a moment in history when we must act not as partisans, but as a human family that comes together as one in an unwavering commitment to embark on a different path.

We must act quickly to invest in a new energy economy that not only generates all the power we need while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also produces millions of new jobs, new industries, new revenues and new opportunities.

Energy is a critical issue in the campaign, as it should be. But the focus must spread far beyond the price of a gallon of gasoline and the role of offshore drilling. The stakes are far greater. We need to transform the economy.

We are Republicans who need a Lincoln. We are Democrats who yearn for a Roosevelt. We are restless Independents in search of a leader dedicated to facing the most extraordinary challenge of our generation.

Americans demand and deserve strong action to secure our future and provide ample affordable energy.

We call on you as the next President to make the commitment that you will use your executive authority to the fullest possible extent and will press Congress for a comprehensive package of legislative initiatives to build a new American economy.

The legislative package must include a science-based limit on greenhouse gas emissions that will achieve a reduction of 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 and significant reductions by 2020.

The legislation must reflect five critical domestic goals. They are to:

- Ignite America's genius for innovation;
- Expand employment at all levels to produce the technologies and goods America needs for a low-carbon economy;
- Rapidly increase energy efficiency in every sector of the U.S. economy;
- Develop clean, renewable, sustainable energy sources from coast to coast; and
- Help those individuals and communities that are least able to cope with the impact of climate change and climate policy.

We call on you to engage constructively in the climate-change negotiations under way at the United Nations, and to use the bully pulpit to mobilize Americans in support of this movement, as great American leaders before you have done.

We who have signed this letter represent business, industry, science, academia, military veterans, the investment community, the arts, the faith community — and Americans from all walks of life. It is urgent that the next President take bold and rapid action to address the daunting challenge of global climate change.

Our future depends on it. Time is running out.