



June 5, 2009

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

The energy bill debate has reached a critical moment. We applaud the committee members who recognize that a well-crafted energy bill will help reestablish American economic competitiveness, curb climate change, and move us toward energy independence. While some members have legitimate questions about the economic rewards that this groundbreaking legislation will bring to their states, your entire committee is united in the belief that what our country needs now is good American jobs. This bill holds enormous potential for job creation if we use the right key to unlock it. That key is investing in domestic clean energy manufacturing.

America's manufacturing sector has been in severe decline for decades, and the current economic crisis has made matters even worse. An energy bill that incorporates the Apollo Alliance's Green Manufacturing Action Plan will put American manufacturing on the road to recovery. A renewable electricity standard of 25 percent by 2025, for instance, could generate billions of dollars in economic activity and create approximately 1 million well-paid manufacturing jobs. But to ensure that our domestic manufacturing sector fully captures these economic benefits, we must help America's manufacturing firms retrain workers and retool their facilities to build the parts and systems of the burgeoning clean energy economy. Investing in domestic manufacturing will significantly lessen our dependence on imported solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and other foreign products that currently account for 70 percent of our market for clean and efficient energy equipment and components.

Including investments in domestic manufacturing in the energy bill will deliver economic rewards to all 50 states, and some committee members hesitant to support the legislation may be pleased to learn that their constituents will benefit enormously. The states hit hardest by manufacturing job losses over the past few decades – states like Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri – are the ones that have the most potential for a revitalized manufacturing sector capable of making the clean and efficient energy systems that will be the backbone of the new energy economy. These states will see tremendous gains in jobs and revenues from a bill that invests heavily in retraining workers and helping manufacturing facilities retool their production lines.

Investments in domestic clean energy manufacturing can bridge the divide between committee members and help achieve the consensus that will move comprehensive energy legislation forward. These investments will revitalize our ailing manufacturing sector, strengthen our middle class, and be the springboard that launches America to the forefront of the global clean energy economy.

www.apolloalliance.org

330 Townsend Street, Ste. 205 • San Francisco, CA 94107 • Phone: (415) 371-1700 • Fax: (415) 371-1707

601 13th Street NW, Ste. 400S • Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: (310) 701-3003

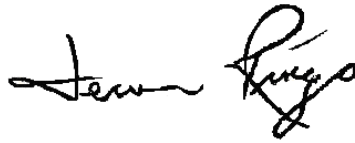


We look forward to working with all members of the committee to advance this bill and to ensure that the goal of a vibrant, clean energy economy is realized.

Sincerely,



Phil Angelides
Chairman
Apollo Alliance



Jerome Ringo
President
Apollo Alliance



Robert L. Borosage
Co-Director
Campaign for America's Future



Michael Peck
Director of Institutional Relations
Gamesa North America



Carol Sturman
President
Sturman Industries, Inc.



Richard L. Trumka
Secretary-Treasurer
AFL-CIO

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Assistant Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Vice Chair of the Conference
The Honorable Patty Murray, Secretary of the Conference
The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan, Chairman of Policy Committee
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair of Steering and Outreach Committee
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chief Deputy Whip
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman of House Committee on Energy and Commerce