



October 9, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Democrats dedicated to a prosperous America and a clean environment, we encourage the adoption of policies within the framework of your clean energy agenda that accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable coal. We write to you not as representatives of any industry or special interest, but as elected representatives of the American people and as members and leaders of the Democratic Party.

The CoalBlue Project seeks to achieve a broad, bipartisan, and unwavering commitment to coal as a sustainable fuel of the future. We, the undersigned, as Democrats dedicated to a vibrant economy and a healthy environment, support the mission of the CoalBlue Project. We believe securing a diverse mix of sustainable energy resources, including sustainable coal, is vital to America's future and its standing in the world.

Coal is an engine of economic activity and growth that delivers incredible social benefits. Its production is the economic lifeblood of many of the communities we represent and serve. Far more broadly, the affordable and reliable electricity it generates helps keep businesses across America running, providing jobs for millions of hard-working men and women. It has powered America to greatness, and it can and will – in a cleaner form – fuel us into the future.

To achieve a clean energy future, we must develop energy resources that are abundant, affordable and reliable, yet have minimal impact on the environment. Sustainable coal will help attain a greater balance between worldwide demands for energy that derive from economic and societal advances, and the obligation to deliver a clean, enduring environment for future generations.

We endeavor to work with you and your administration in moving forward on a clean energy agenda that reflects a realistic assessment of coal's inevitable place in our nation's energy future. In May of this year, you suggested that we must deal with environmental concerns and challenges in an "honest, realistic way." We could not agree more, and the realities of domestic and global energy supply and demand tell us that coal will be a central and essential source of energy, both at home and abroad, for decades to come.

From a policy perspective, there is no realistic path forward to a clean, low-carbon world that does not include clean, low-carbon coal. Thus, the sustainable coal agenda is not only compatible with your clean energy and climate agenda, it is essential to it.

Through the use of technology, coal has met every environmental challenge it has ever faced. There is no reason to view the carbon challenge as any different.

However, critical carbon-mitigating coal technologies will not reach the marketplace in a timely manner without strong leadership from you and your administration, nor without significant public investment – similar in scale to that which other energy technologies have received in recent years. We should not expect that advanced coal technologies will be developed and deployed without the same.

Yet, current efforts in this regard are inadequate and unbalanced. Present investment in efforts to take “clean” electrons generated from renewable energy resources and find ways to make them abundant, affordable, and reliable far exceeds investment in efforts to take the vast amount of abundant, affordable, and reliable electrons we already have from coal and other fossil fuels and make them cleaner. While projects such as FutureGen 2.0, in your home state of Illinois, are an important step in the right direction, they are far from enough.

Balanced investment in the next generation of sustainable energy technologies is critical if we are to address the realities of global energy demand. Today, an estimated 1.3 billion people worldwide live without access to electricity – a leading indicator of poverty. As the globe’s population increases and developing economies seek the means necessary to fuel further growth, coal will remain a dominant source of energy and the need for advanced coal technologies will become only more acute.

Equally important is pursuing policies that make all forms of clean energy, whether they be renewable or fossil-based, less expensive. Our efforts should not make traditional energy more expensive in order to make higher-cost alternative energy market competitive. The world will not follow us if the path we chart leads only to more expensive energy.

How we achieve a clean energy economy is as important as our actually getting there. Commercial-scale carbon capture and storage technologies are not yet ready for the marketplace, neither for natural gas nor for coal. To not allow for step-wise improvements in advanced coal technologies is counter-productive from an environmental point of view, as well as needlessly costly and painful from an economic one. In this regard, we seek to work with you to address the serious concerns we have with the Environmental Protection Agency’s revised proposed New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for new electric generating units.

America is blessed with an abundance of domestic energy resources that, if properly managed, will fuel American prosperity well into the future. In that spirit, the CoalBlue Project endeavors to work with you and your administration in good faith to grasp the many opportunities coal offers – and to address its challenges. By harnessing American ingenuity and spirit, we can do both.

We seek to move forward together through direct engagement with your energy policy team at the White House and federal departments. To that end, we view this letter as the beginning of a fuller conversation.

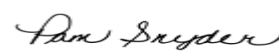
Sincerely,



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Majority Leader,
KY House of Representatives



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Clerk of the Circuit Court, Wise County



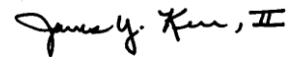
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Chairman of the Democratic Party, Wise County

Susan Sarfaty ILLINOIS
Regional Superintendent of Schools, St. Clair County

Michael Schubert PENNSYLVANIA
Second-Ward Commissioner, Susquehanna Township

Helen Scott PENNSYLVANIA
Mayor, Borough of Shippingport

Travis Scott KENTUCKY
Former Chairman, Young Democrats of America Rural Caucus

Joseph Shaffer WEST VIRGINIA
Prosecuting Attorney, Harrison County

Patty Sharbaugh PENNSYLVANIA
Register of Wills, Cambria County

Renee Shepherd KENTUCKY
Court Clerk, Magoffin County

Jordan Shewmaker KENTUCKY
Youth Representative, State Central Executive Committee

Ronnie Shortt VIRGINIA
Supervisor, Wise County

Monroe Slaton KENTUCKY
Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, Hopkins County

Doug Smith KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Bracken County

Joe Spanik PENNSYLVANIA
Steering Committee
Commissioner, Beaver County

Frankie Springfield KENTUCKY
Sheriff, Webster County

Gaylan Spurlin KENTUCKY
Clerk, Muhlenberg County

Charles Stacy VIRGINIA
Vice Chair, Tazewell County Board of Supervisors

Michael Stafford KENTUCKY
Property Valuation Administrator, Johnson County

Theo Stamos VIRGINIA
Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington Co. & City of Falls Church

Devra Steckler KENTUCKY
Clerk, Hopkins County

Steve Szymusiak PENNSYLVANIA
Mayor, Nanty Glo

Chuck Tackett KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Scott County

Thomas Tanner PENNSYLVANIA
Mayor, Borough of Fairchance

Bill Taylor ILLINOIS
Treasurer, Perry County

Justin Taylor PENNSYLVANIA
Mayor, Carbondale

Roy Terrell Sr. INDIANA
Mayor, City of Jasonville

Michael Thomas KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Ohio County

David Thompson KENTUCKY
Sheriff, Ohio County

Beverly Tiller VIRGINIA
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Buchanan County

Bruce Todd KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Anderson County

Pamela Tokar-Ickes PENNSYLVANIA
Commissioner, Somerset County

Carl Tolliver KENTUCKY
Commissioner, Boyd County

James Townsend KENTUCKY
Judge Executive, Webster County

Winnie Townsend KENTUCKY
Election Commissioner, Hardin County

Chad Townsend KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Webster County

James Trimble KENTUCKY
Judge/Executive, Menifee County

Wayne Turner KENTUCKY
Property Valuation Administrator, Bourbon County

John Turner WEST VIRGINIA
County Clerk, Logan County

Donnie Tyler KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Trigg County

Stephen Urban PENNSYLVANIA
Council Member, Luzerne County Council

John Vatavuk PENNSYLVANIA
Commissioner, Somerset County

Tom Vaughn ILLINOIS
County Board Member, Franklin County

Vincent Vicites PENNSYLVANIA
former Commissioner, Fayette County

Bennie Vick ILLINOIS
Sheriff, Williamson County

Marlene Wagoner ILLINOIS
Supervisor of Assessments, Shelby County

Jim Ward KENTUCKY
Judge/Executive, Letcher County

Linda Ward ILLINOIS
Clerk & Recorder, Schuyler County

Rick Watson ILLINOIS
Sheriff, St. Clair County

Jerry Webb KENTUCKY
Jailer, Gallatin County

Jonathan Weinzapfel INDIANA
Steering Committee
Former Mayor, City of Evansville

Karen Wells-Sorrell KENTUCKY
Circuit Clerk, Menifee County

Martin West WEST VIRGINIA
Sheriff, McDowell County

Ollie Whitaker KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Menifee County

Charles White WEST VIRGINIA
Clerk, Roane County

Trevor White VIRGINIA
Democratic Party Chair, Scott County

Ricky Whitlock KENTUCKY
Magistrate, Larue County

Eric Williams INDIANA
Steering Committee
Sheriff, Vanderburgh County

James Williams VIRGINIA
Treasurer, Portsmouth

Randy Williams VIRGINIA
Commissioner of the Revenue, Russell County

Sarah Williams VIRGINIA
Chairman, Bristol Democratic Committee

Dwight Williamson WEST VIRGINIA
Magistrate, Logan County

Randy Williamson VIRGINIA
Commissioner of the Revenue, Russell County

Amy Willines KENTUCKY
Circuit Court Clerk, Webster County

Betsy Woolridge VIRGINIA
Clerk of the Circuit Court, City of Williamsburg &
County of James City

Daniel E. Wright WEST VIRGINIA
Circuit Clerk, Fayette County

Harvey Young WEST VIRGINIA
Assessor, Fayette County

Blair Zimmerman PENNSYLVANIA
Commissioner, Greene County

John Graham VIRGINIA
Clerk of Circuit Court, Smythe County

Ryan Bizzarro PENNSYLVANIA
Member, PA House of Representatives

Robert Plymale WEST VIRGINIA
Member, WV State Senate

David Henry VIRGINIA
Commissioner of the Revenue, Washington
County

Walt Helmick WEST VIRGINIA
Commissioner, Department of Agriculture