

Guadalajara, August 7th 2009

Dear President Obama,

Dear President Calderon,

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

RE: Climate leadership urgently needed

Global warming is the greatest threat facing the world today. Climate change has already killed hundreds of thousands and made millions refugees around the world. The impacts of climate change are devastating economies and destroying ecosystems. Already, the loss of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic has surpassed scientists' worst-case scenarios; low-lying islands are being submerged; entire populations are being displaced; coral reefs are dying; and once-fertile lands are battling floods or drought.

As part of the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the Fifth North American Leaders Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico (August 9-10) has identified the promotion of "clean energy to combat climate change" as a top priority. In order to honor this commitment, and to achieve a successful outcome at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen this December, we urge you to:

- Commit to keeping the global average temperature increase (from pre-industrial levels) as far below a 2° Celsius, in order to avert catastrophic climate change;
- Agree that global emissions must peak by 2015 and then be reduced to as close to zero as possible by 2050, compared to 1990 levels;
- Support the principle that developed countries, such as the U.S. and Canada, should collectively reduce emissions at least 40% 2020, compared to 1990 levels;
- Support the principle that developing countries, such as Mexico, should achieve at least a 15 to 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 'business as usual' projections by 2020;
- Support the principle that developed countries should provide \$140 billion per year for mitigation, adaptation, and forest protection in developing countries by 2020; and
- Commit to the establishment of a funding mechanism to stop deforestation and associated emissions in all developing countries by 2020.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership must completely change its concept of energy security. Until now, it has deliberately promoted the export of oil and gas from Canada and Mexico to the U.S., and encouraged a number of false "solutions" to climate change such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), "clean coal", nuclear power, unsustainable biofuels, and hydrogen.

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Canada is the largest source of U.S. petroleum imports at 2.5 million barrels per day in 2008, and Mexico is the third-largest source (after Saudi Arabia) at 1.3 million barrels per day in 2008. However, conventional sources of oil and natural gas in both Canada and Mexico are declining. From 2007 to 2008, Mexico fell from the number two supplier of oil to the U.S. to number three. Canadian oil exports to the U.S. increased only because most exports now come from Alberta's tar sands – the dirtiest oil in the world. Extracting and upgrading the tar sands to create synthetic crude oil creates up to five times more greenhouse gas pollution than conventional oil.

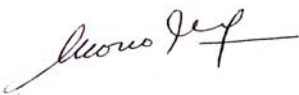
Unconventional oil sources such as the tar sands and deepwater oil carry unacceptably high financial and environmental costs. True energy security for North America will come only from the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Energy security and combating climate change in North America are two sides of the same coin. By incentivizing clean, renewable energy as well as adopting aggressive energy efficiency measures, North America can shift from being a climate destroyer to world leader – growing jobs and the economy, while combating climate change at the same time.

Greenpeace's Energy [R]evolution scenarios for the U.S., Canada and Mexico show how North America can generate 94% of its own electricity from clean renewable energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions more than 80% (from 1990 levels) by 2050. Support for renewable energy will also grow jobs and the regional economy. Greenpeace's latest research shows that investing in green energy in G-8 countries will create one million jobs by 2020 – 460,000 more than would be created by continuing to invest in dirty energy.

As elected leaders in North America, you have a responsibility to show leadership at home and internationally. The time to lead on climate change is now.

Yours sincerely,



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