

November 19, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
Hart Office Building
Suite 706
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman,

On behalf of the Blue Climate Coalition, we wish to thank you for your efforts in advancing marine conservation as part of the solution to climate change.

We are delighted that your discussion draft, the American Power Act, recognizes that marine conservation has a role to play in mitigating climate change.

The inclusion of “wetlands” and "vegetated marine coastal habitats" under allowable offset projects will help ensure that the conservation and restoration of certain coastal and marine ecosystems, that store atmospheric carbon, is included in discussions of climate change policy. Such important “blue carbon” ecosystems include mangrove forests, saltwater marshlands and seagrass meadows, which are extremely effective at storing carbon – mangroves and coastal wetlands store 50 times more carbon than tropical forests by area.

Given the recent election results, we understand that progress on comprehensive climate change legislation will not be easy. We offer you our support in advancing science-based policy options for addressing this critically important issue and in defending the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Thank you again for your interest in climate change and healthy oceans.

Sincerely yours,

Signed by the following seventy-three marine stakeholders and conservation groups, together from twenty-one U.S. states and territories and seventeen countries (Blue Climate Coalition):

Domestic - Fifty-three signatories from twenty-one states and territories:

Blue Climate Solutions	Steven J. Lutz, Executive Director, Founder, Blue Climate Coalition, Miami, FL
The Ocean Foundation	Mark J. Spalding, Ph.D., President, Washington, DC
Mangrove Action Project	Alfredo Quarto, Executive Director, Port Angeles, WA

Sierra Club	Bruce Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director, San Francisco, CA
Seagrass Recovery	Jeff Beggins, President & CEO, Indian Rocks Beach, FL
Restore America's Estuaries	Jeff Benoit, President, Arlington, VA
350.org	Bill McKibben, Co-founder & Global Organizer, Ripton, VT
Greenpeace USA	Phil Kline, Senior Oceans Campaigner, Washington, DC
The Blue Carbon Project	John Bruno, Ph.D., Director, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Sciences, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Surfrider Foundation	Chad Nelsen, Environmental Director, San Clemente, CA
American Littoral Society	Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, Highlands, NJ
Ocean Conservation Research	Michael Stocker, Executive Director, Forest Knolls, CA
American Fisheries Society (AFS)	Gus Rassam, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bethesda, MD
Alliance for Earth Observations	Nancy S.A. Colleton, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Arlington, VA
EarthEcho International	Philippe Cousteau, Jr., Co-founder & CEO, Washington, DC
NAUI Worldwide	Jed Livingstone, Vice President , Tampa, FL
Forest Trends	Mr. Michael Jenkins, President & CEO, Washington, DC
Blue Ocean Institute	Carl Safina, Ph.D., President, East Norwich, NY
Oceanic Defense - Florida	Samantha Whitcraft, Director, Conservation Biology & Research, Miami, FL <i>Activation Through Education</i>
Fauna & Flora International	Katie Frohardt, Executive Director, Washington, DC
Trees, Water & People	Stuart Conway, International Director, Fort Collins, CO

Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment	Mike Skuja, Executive Director & Founder, Washington, DC
Urban Paradise Guild	Sam Van Leer, Executive Director, Miami, FL
CORALations	Mary Ann Lucking, Director, Culebra, PR
Environment Florida	Sarah Bucci, Federal Field Associate, Miami Beach, FL
Repower America Florida	Lance Orchid, Florida State Director, St Petersburg, FL
The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)	Rick MacPherson, Interim Executive Director and Conservation Programs Director, San Francisco, CA
Earth2Ocean Inc.	Ellen Prager, Ph.D., President, Miami, FL
Endangered Habitats League	Dan Silver, Executive Director, Los Angeles, CA
ECOMB: Environmental Coalition of Miami & the Beaches	Luiz Rodrigues, Executive Director, Miami Beach, FL
Florida Conservation Alliance	Ilysia Shattuck, Director, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument	Mr. Ignacio V. Cabrera, Chairman, Saipan, CNMI
Global Coral Reef Alliance	Thomas J. Goreau, Ph.D., President, Cambridge, MA
Guanaja Mangrove Restoration	Scott Duncan, Director, South Portland, ME
Island Resources Foundation	Bruce G. Potter, President, Washington, DC
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance	Miwa Tamanaha, Executive Director, Honolulu, HI
The Ocean Project	Bill Mott, Director, Providence, RI
Malama Kai Foundation	Terry O'Halloran, Executive Director, Kamuela, HI

Ocean Defenders Alliance	Scott Sheckman, Executive Director, Huntington Beach, CA
Ocean Revolution	Wallace J. Nichols, Ph.D., Founder & Co-Director, Davenport, CA
Pro Peninsula - Ocean Connectors Program	Frances Kinney, Director, San Diego, CA
SandyHook SeaLife Foundation	Mary M. Hamilton, Executive Director, Highlands, NJ
Save Our Seas	Capt. Paul Clark, President, Hanalei, HI
ScienceFish.com	Refik Orhun, Ph.D., Founder, Miami, FL
Sea Turtle Conservancy	David Godfrey, Executive Director, Gainesville, FL
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League	Dana Beach, Executive Director, Charleston, SC
Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island	Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph. D., President, Long Island, NY
Beautify CNMI!	Cinta M. Kaipat, Founder, Saipan, CNMI
The Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature (ICPAN)	Lewis Regenstein, President, Atlanta, GA
Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation	CAPT Philip G. Renaud, USN (ret), Executive Director, Landover, MD
The Snorkel Bob Foundation	Robert Wintner, Executive Director, Kihei, HI
WIDECAST: Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network	Karen Eckert, Ph.D., Executive Director, Beaufort, NC

International - Twenty signatories from sixteen countries:

Andros Conservancy and Trust (ANCAT)	Peter Douglas, Executive Director, Fresh Creek, Andros, Bahamas
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Blue Ventures Conservation	Alasdair Harris, Ph.D., Research Director, London, United Kingdom
Cartagena's Youth Declaration on Climate Change Group	Viviana Mourra, Representative, Cartagena, Republic of Colombia
Centro Ecologico Akumal	Paul Sanchez-Navarro, Director, Quintana Roo, México
CIANGO: Cook Islands Association of Non-Government Organizations	Mrs. Tuaine Marsters, President, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Friends of the Environment	Kristin Williams, Executive Director, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
Global Islands Network	Graeme Robertson, Executive Director, Inverness, Scotland, United Kingdom
Marine Conservation Society	Mrs. Sam Fanshawe, Director, Herefordshire, United Kingdom
MAUDESCO: Mauritius Council for Development Environmental Studies and Conservation	Rajen Awotar, Executive Director, Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius
Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL)	Ms. Margaret Sete, Port Moreby, Papua New Guinea
NIUANGO: Niue Island Association of NGOs	Mr. Hiva Levi, Niue Island
Palau Conservation Society	Mr. Elbuchel Sadang, Executive Director, Koror, Palau
Peninsula Citizens for Sustainable Development	Mary Toy, Co-Chair, Placencia, Belize
Rainbow Warriors Core Caribbean Foundation (Rainbow Warriors International)	Milton Ponson, President, Oranjestad, Aruba, Dutch
Saint Lucia National Trust	Bishnu Tulsie, Director, Castries, Saint Lucia

Sierra Club British Colombia	George Heyman, Executive Director, Victoria, BC, Canada
SUNGO: Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations	High Chief Vaasiliifili Moelagi Jackson, SUNGO National President, Apia, Independent State of Samoa
TierraMar Consulting Pty Limited	Anissa Lawrence, Director, Sutherland, NSW, Australia
TNYC: Tonga National Youth Congress	Miss Siaila Jagroop, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
WetlandCare Australia Ltd	Anissa Lawrence, Director, Ballina, NSW, Australia

Contact: Steven J. Lutz, Blue Climate Solutions, Email: steven.lutz@blueclimatesolutions.org