

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Begich and Congressman Young,

As Alaskans we join together urging you to support bold, science-based, green energy legislation in 2009 that will achieve a low-carbon economy and provide the foundation for sustained economic growth and prosperity.

Alaska has been described as “ground zero” for climate change. Melting of the polar ice cap, storm surge, coastal erosion, thawing permafrost, and spruce bark beetle infestations are evidence of climate change in Alaska. In addition, ocean acidification threatens world-class marine resources that provide food, jobs and heritage to many Alaskans.

We encourage you to promote climate change legislation that,

1. Pivots us away from fossil fuel dependence, advances energy conservation and moves us toward a clean energy future with strong standards for energy efficiency, renewable energy and the growth of “green jobs”,
2. Achieves scientific recommendations by the International Panel on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and
3. Mobilizes Alaskans and the nation to create new jobs in energy efficiency, transportation and renewable energy technology such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, tidal, current and ocean wave energy generation.

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