



May 3, 2006

Senator Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

The National Environmental Trust deeply appreciates your continued leadership in reducing air pollution from the power generating sector, and your efforts to achieve bipartisan support for measures to reduce the carbon emissions that cause global warming.

If enacted, the Clean Air Planning Act of 2006 would greatly reduce many of the largest power plant-related conventional air pollution problems by 2015. Its strengthened emissions reductions requirements for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury are some of the most protective measures proposed in recent years. For one, your new per-unit, no-trading mercury pollution reduction requirement addresses the critical problem of local contamination. Also, we are pleased that vital requirements of the current Clean Air Act such as the New Source Review program, which requires old power plants to meet modern standards if they expand or are upgraded, remain intact. This and other federal clean air requirements have saved thousands of lives and should be maintained and strengthened, not weakened.

Your bill also recognizes that global warming is the greatest looming environmental and public health threat that our nation and the world face. The latest scientific data reveal that we must start now to stop and reverse the growth of the emissions that cause global warming if we are to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of a changing climate.

We appreciate your efforts to craft a broadly supported emissions reduction program for the utility industry that allows participation by other sectors of the U.S. economy. However, we believe that the scientific data that has emerged since you first crafted your approach, showing impacts progressing far more rapidly than scientists had predicted even five years ago, requires more aggressive action. In particular, we believe that utilities, which generate nearly 40% of the nation's global warming pollution, need to be required to reduce emissions from their own plants, rather than be allowed to purchase offsets from other industries for a majority of their emissions reductions if there is to be a market for new carbon reduction technologies. We look forward to working with you and your staff to further strengthen the carbon provisions of the bill.

Again, we commend you and your staff for your efforts to bring senators from both sides of the aisle to the table, and for your willingness to work with interested parties to improve this important legislation. We look forward to continued work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Philip Clapp
President