1Sky * Alaska Community Action on Toxics * Alliance for Climate Protection * Center for American Progress Action Fund * Center for Auto Safety * Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Air Task Force * Clean Water Action * Climate Solutions * Defenders of Wildlife * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund * Environmental Working Group * Earthjustice * EcoLaw Massachusetts * Friends of the Earth * Global Exchange * League of Conservation Voters * League of Women Voters of the United States * Massachusetts Forest Watch * National Audubon Society National Wildlife Federation * Natural Resources Defense Council * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club * Southern Alliance for Clean Energy * Southern Environmental Law Center * Sustainable Energy & Economy Network * Union of Concerned Scientists * The Wilderness Society * World Wildlife Fund

September 21, 2009

Dear Senator:

Senator Murkowski has circulated a draft amendment to the FY 2010 Interior Appropriations bill that would ignore worldwide scientific consensus that carbon dioxide is a pollutant that threatens public health and welfare, block Clean Air Act protections, and delay the move to clean, American-made energy. The amendment seeks to prohibit carbon dioxide from sources other cars and trucks from being considered a pollutant and blocks the Environmental Protection Agency from taking any action to address carbon dioxide from sources other than cars and trucks. On behalf of millions Americans across the country, we strongly urge you to oppose the Murkowski amendment to the Interior bill as well as any other amendments that would delay America's investments in clean energy and efforts to tackle global warming.

Pollution is dangerous no matter its source. Global warming pollution from power plants and oil refineries is just as harmful as global warming pollution from cars and trucks. The U.S. Global Change Research Program, U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and every other major scientific body have concluded that carbon dioxide emissions are warming the planet, threaten public health, welfare, and national security, and urgently need to be reduced.

The Murkowski amendment seeks to exempt from the Clean Air Act the biggest global warming polluters. The amendment would let Big Oil, dirty coal, and other big polluters off the hook for their carbon dioxide emissions, undermining the Clean Air Act's protections for public health and the environment. These sources are responsible for the lion's share of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. For instance, power plants emit twice as much carbon dioxide as do passenger vehicles.

The Murkowski amendment delays the transition to clean energy. Exempting the biggest sources of carbon dioxide from the Clean Air Act will delay our nation's

transition to efficiency, solar, wind, and other sources of clean energy – sources that won't run out, will only grow cheaper over time, don't harm our environment or public health, and will create millions of clean energy jobs.

The Murkowski amendment sends a loud signal around the world that the United States is not serious about curbing its global warming pollution. In the lead up to key climate talks in Copenhagen in December, this amendment will convey a clear message that the United States is not serious about a global solution to global warming. If the Senate blocks progress in the United States, it will be next to impossible to convince other key countries to reduce their emissions.

We strongly urge you to oppose Senator Murkowski's amendment to the Interior bill as well as any other amendments that would delay America's progress towards a clean energy economy that would create jobs, increase America's energy security, and cut pollution.

Sincerely,

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