AMERICAN RIVERS * CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
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EARTHJUSTICE * ENVIRONMENT AMERICA * ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
GREENPEACE * LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS * NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY * SIERRA CLUB

September 20, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our millions of members, our organizations are deeply concerned to learn that your Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long-overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants by September 30th. This marks the second delay in fulfilling your administration's promise, made in settlement of litigation and in representations to the Supreme Court, to address power plants' enormous contribution to the air pollution that drives climate change.

Power plants are the nation's largest source of dangerous carbon pollution. Today, 40 years after passage of the Clean Air Act, they are still free to dump unlimited amounts of that pollution into the air. Americans are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. More extreme weather – like the recent floods and storms in the Northeast and extreme drought and wildfires in Texas – is expected from a continually warming world. Many lives have been lost, dozens of communities flooded or burned, thousands of people have lost homes or other property, and damages have totaled in the tens of billions of dollars.

Limiting the carbon pollution from power plants will protect our children's health, our coastlines, rivers, forests, wildlife, and our economy. Moving forward to modernize our aging energy infrastructure will protect our health and well-being, save families and small businesses money through more efficient generation and use of electricity, and contribute to our economic recovery and create thousands of new jobs.

Clean Air Act standards for power plant carbon pollution are years overdue. Earlier this year, your administration assured the Supreme Court that EPA was committed to issue them on a specific schedule. On the strength of those assurances, in June the Court

unanimously reaffirmed that it is EPA's job to protect Americans from climate-changing pollution. EPA, however, has acknowledged that the promised schedule will not be met.

Accordingly, we ask that you reaffirm the administration's commitment to issue strong standards that significantly reduce carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act requires. We ask that the administration announce and stick to a remedial schedule requiring proposal of these standards without further delay and completion of them as soon as possible in 2012.

Your administration's leadership in carrying out the law, without delay, is essential to securing a stronger, safer and more prosperous America.

Sincerely,

Wm. Robert Irvin
President
American Rivers

Carroll Muffett
President
Center for International Environmental Law

Armond Cohen
Executive Director
Clean Air Task Force

Robert Wendelgass
President and CEO
Clean Water Action

Trip Van Noppen
President
Earthjustice

Margie Alt
Executive Director
Environment America

Fred Krupp
President
Environmental Defense Fund

Philip D. Radford
Executive Director
Greenpeace USA

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

Elisabeth MacNamara
President
League of Women Voters

David Yarnold
President and CEO
National Audubon Society

Thomas C. Kiernan
President
National Parks Conservation Association

Larry Schweiger
President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Frances Beinecke
President
Natural Resources Defense Council

Peter Wilk
Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club