March 10, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Mr. Boehner, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has initiated efforts to impose greenhouse gas regulations that could be harmful to our economies at an especially critical time. As Governors and Chief Economic Developers of our States, we are gravely concerned about such regulation.

EPA is not equipped to consider the very real potential for economic harm when regulating emissions. Without that consideration, regulation will place heavy administrative burdens on state environmental quality agencies, will be costly to consumers and could be devastating to the economy and jobs.

Economists estimate that states will face their worst fiscal situations within the next two years. As governors, we have the responsibility to protect jobs, promote economic growth, and mitigate any threats to financial stability in our states. We oppose EPA regulation of greenhouse gases that fails to account for these responsibilities. A simple delay of EPA action will do nothing to provide relief to Americans looking for jobs or businesses looking to make new investments in our states. Furthermore, such delay of EPA action only creates more uncertainty in a difficult fiscal environment.

We believe that EPA should offer input regarding complex energy and environmental policy initiatives, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but feel that these policies are best developed by elected representatives at the state and national level, not by single federal agency. There is no question that broad bipartisan support exists to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while taking into consideration the difficult fiscal situation that our states and the nation face.

We feel compelled to guard against a regulatory approach that would increase the cost of electricity and gasoline prices, manufactured products, and ultimately harm the competitiveness of the U.S. economy. As governors, we strongly urge Congress to stop harmful EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions that could damage those vital interests. We ask that Congress continue its work to pass comprehensive legislation that balances the role of conservation and climate security with the production of abundant and affordable American energy.

Sincerely,

Governor Haley Barbour
Mississippi

Governor Joe Manchin III
West Virginia

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska

Governor Dave Heineman
Nebraska

Governor Sony Perdue
Georgia

Governor Steven L. Beshear
Kentucky

Governor Donald L. Carcieri
Rhode Island

Governor Jim Gibbons
Nevada

Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota

Governor M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota

Governor Mark Sanford
South Carolina

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota

Governor Gary R. Herbert
Utah

Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii

Governor Bobby Jindal
Louisiana

Governor Bob Riley
Alabama

Governor Felix P. Camacho
Guam

Governor Luis G. Fortuño
Puerto Rico

Governor Robert F. McDonnell
Virginia

Governor Jan Brewer
Arizona