



May 25, 2007

Senator Barbara Boxer
Chairwomen, Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
FAX: (202) 224-1273

Representative John Dingell
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
FAX: (202) 225-1919

Re: Ski Industry Support for US-CAP Approach to Fighting Global Warming

Dear Chairmen Boxer and Dingell:

We are writing to express our support for the US-CAP approach to fighting global warming. Sixty-three (63) ski areas across 21 states support the US-CAP principles to act aggressively and sustainably slow, stop and reverse the growth of global warming emissions. These sixty-three (63) endorsing resorts, listed below, are committed to raising awareness of the problem of global warming and helping apply solutions to solve it.

As you know, there are plenty of good reasons for ski resorts to be concerned about climate change and its potential impacts on winter recreation. Scientific models suggest that as warming continues, we could experience decreased snowpack, warmer nights, wetter shoulder seasons, and reduced weather predictability. All of these changes affect our industry, as fewer operating days would obviously impact our bottom line, warmer nights can impact our ability to make snow, and spring rain can wash away our base at a critical time of year for skiing and snowboarding. As diehard skiers and snowboarders, we think winter is already too short. We view climate change as a long-term problem, and want to implement reasonable, bi-partisan supported measures now to help solve it.

We support the US-CAP recommendations to enact a policy framework for mandatory reductions of GHG emissions from major emitting sectors, including large stationary sources, transportation, and energy use in commercial and residential buildings. The cornerstone of this approach would be a cap-and-trade program. The environmental goal is to reduce global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations to a level that

minimizes large-scale adverse impacts to humans and the natural environment. We similarly recommend that Congress provide leadership and establish short- and mid-term emission reduction targets; a national program to accelerate technology research, development and deployment; and approaches to encourage action by other countries, including those in the developing world, as ultimately the solution must be global.

Ski areas have taken tremendous steps to reduce our own GHG emissions. **There are now fifty-nine (59) resorts purchasing green, renewable energy for their operations. Of these 59 resorts, twenty-eight (28) are 100% green powered.** Additionally, resorts are providing their customers the opportunity to purchase mini green tags or sign up for green energy in their homes to offset their emissions and "ski pollution free." Resorts are also applying energy-efficient green building techniques, retrofitting existing facilities to save energy, replacing inefficient compressors in snowmaking operations, using alternative fuels in resort vehicle fleets, and providing or promoting car pooling or mass transit use by guests and employees. We are a relatively small source of greenhouse gas emissions, however, and will need the help of other industries to turn this problem around.

We support the US-CAP approach because it will encourage major industrial emitters to invest in the most cost-effective means to reduce emissions. Over the long term, investments in efficiency should actually reduce future energy costs. While resorts and other businesses may see a small increase in their electricity rates, these costs will be manageable with periodic efficiency upgrades such as replacing outdated compressors in snowmaking equipment. These measures will reduce the electricity and fuel bills ski resorts pay in the long run.

We urge you to incorporate the US-CAP approach into whatever compromise bill emerges from committee. If you require any further information, our contact person is Geraldine Link ((720) 963-4205 or glink@nsaa.org) at the National Ski Areas Association.

Best Regards,

CALIFORNIA

Alpine Meadows
Arapahoe Basin
Bear Valley
Boreal Mountain Resort
June Mountain
Mammoth
Mountain High
Northstar-at-Tahoe
Sierra-at-Tahoe
Soda Springs Ski Area
Sugar Bowl

COLORADO

Aspen Highlands

Aspen Mountain
Beaver Creek
Breckenridge
Buttermilk
Copper
Keystone
Snowmass
Vail Mountain
Winter Park

IDAHO

Bogus Basin
Lookout Pass
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Tamarack Resort

ILLINOIS

Chestnut Mountain Resort

MAINE

Camden Snow Bowl
Shawnee Peak Ski Area

MASSACHUSETTS

Catamount Ski Area
Jiminy Peak
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

MICHIGAN

Crystal Mountain

MINNESOTA

Lutsen Mountains

MONTANA

Bridger Bowl

NEVADA

Heavenly Mountain Resort

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cranmore Mountain Resort
Gunstock Mountain Resort
Loon Mountain
Waterville Valley

NEW MEXICO

Pajarito Mountain Ski Area

NEW YORK

Greek Peak Mountain Resort

Hunter Mountain

OREGON

Cooper Spur Mountain Resort
Mt. Bachelor
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort
Timberline Lodge & Ski Area
Willamette Pass

UTAH

Alta Ski Area
The Canyons
Park City Mountain Resort

VERMONT

Killington and Pico
Smugglers' Notch
Stratton
Sugarbush

VIRGINIA

Wintergreen Resort

WASHINGTON

49 Degrees North Mountain Resort
Mission Ridge
Stevens Pass
Summit-at-Snoqualmie

WEST VIRGINIA

Snowshoe

WISCONSIN

Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park

WYOMING

Grand Targhee Resort
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

cc: Senator Harry Reid
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Jessica Maher
Floyd DesChamps
David McIntosh
Greg Dotson
Abbie Meador
Edith Thompson