



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](mailto: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