

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

**10,000 Small-Business Leaders
Petition Chamber of Commerce:
"Stop Lobbying Against Clean Energy Jobs Bill"**

*Small Businesses Join Johnson & Johnson, Nike,
To Support Clean Energy Jobs Bill*

Letters Delivered to Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy

Small-business leaders and MoveOn members delivered ten thousand letters from small businesses to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce today with a clear message: stop lobbying against the clean energy jobs bill currently in Congress. The small-business leaders' effort adds to a growing cry from businesses against the Chamber's effort to undermine the Waxman-Markey clean energy jobs bill. The letters, including more than 650 from Chamber members, were delivered today at The Institute for 21st Century Energy's "Dialogue on Energy Security with America's Business Leaders." (<http://www.energyxxi.org/>)

The letters are indicative of a growing split within the Chamber of Commerce. Last week, Nike and Johnson & Johnson asked the Chamber to refrain from making comments about the legislation unless it reflected the full range of their membership's opinion. (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0509/22101.html>) While powerful oil and coal companies on the Chamber's board have long opposed energy reform, many other businesses favor the bill currently under consideration and argue it would help stimulate the economy.

The letters are part of an ongoing effort by MoveOn and other groups to amplify the voices of small businesses advocating for the economic benefits of a clean energy economy. They all contain the core statement: "As a small-business leader, I urge the Chamber of Commerce to stop lobbying against President Obama's clean energy jobs plan. Our economy would benefit from millions of new jobs and lower electric bills."

"The Chamber of Commerce should represent the interests of American business – not just the interests of a few of its big donors," said Joe Guggenheim, owner of local small business Simon Publications. He continued: "A strong clean energy jobs bill would get our economy moving again, creating much needed jobs that can't be outsourced, reducing energy expenses for businesses like mine, and saving money for consumers at home."

Congressman Earl Blumenauer applauded the letters saying, "It's great to see so many business leaders stepping up to deal meaningfully with a serious environmental threat, but one that provides an opportunity to transform our economy and create millions of new jobs. I'm proud that Nike, based in Oregon, has been a leader in sustainability while also increasing its bottom line. I

hope the Chamber of Commerce will work meaningfully on a solution and reflect the diverse interests of the business community.”

To see the original petition, visit <http://pol.moveon.org/chamber/>.

MoveOn.org Political Action is a political action committee powered by 5 million progressive Americans. We believe in the power of small donors and grassroots action to elect progressive leaders to office and to advance a progressive agenda. We do not accept any donations over \$5,000, and the average donation to MoveOn.org Political Action is under \$100.

###