



July 21, 2010

Dear Chamber of Commerce Executive:

I write to you on behalf of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, on which I serve as a member of the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, the standing policy committee for state and local chambers of commerce.

This week, I learned that several state and local chambers of commerce have been approached by a group calling itself “Chambers for Innovation & Clean Energy”. Your chamber may have been asked to join. The group is being pitched as an organic movement led by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, with the express purpose of “putting a price on carbon” and “limiting carbon and greenhouse gases”. Ironically, their indirect purpose appears to be undermining the U.S. Chamber’s and the business community’s leadership on this vital issue.

Some very simple research reveals that this group is not an organic movement; rather, this group was established by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), an environmental activist organization.

Over the past two years, the NRDC has led a campaign against the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.whodoesthechamberrepresent.org/>, with the goal of fracturing the membership. In fact, the NRDC hired a full-time staff person dedicated to criticizing the U.S. Chamber’s position on climate change and energy.

Through this new front group, the NRDC advances the notion that the U.S. Chamber is somehow standing in the way of climate action. After reviewing the documentation of the evidence I am convinced that this is untrue. Every statement the U.S. Chamber has made on climate over the past 18 months has called on Congress to pass a climate bill. In addition, the U.S. Chamber was the lead negotiator for the business community with Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman on their climate and energy bill in 2010.

Moreover, since 2005, the U.S. Chamber has aggressively pushed the development and deployment of clean energy on the Hill and with federal agencies. In 2007, the U.S. Chamber formalized this effort with the creation of the Emerging Technologies Committee, the sole purpose of which is to evaluate, educate and promote the deployment of these new energy

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technologies. Please visit the link below to review an exhaustive list of technology-oriented activities that the U.S. Chamber has taken on:

[http://www.uschamber.com/issues/index/environment/uscc\\_emerging\\_technologies](http://www.uschamber.com/issues/index/environment/uscc_emerging_technologies).

While the Emerging Technology Committee has largely been comprised of technology companies, in the next week, all state and local chambers will be asked to join in our nationwide effort of hosting technology conferences around the country. We hope you will all participate in this effort, which is taking a constructive approach in developing, permitting and deploying these emerging technologies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and best of luck to you and your chamber.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Win Hallett".

Winthrop M. Hallett III  
President