DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
www.kucinich.house.gov

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As we approach the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Copenhagen, we urge you to pursue fair and effective solutions to the climate crisis. The United States should seize the opportunity to lead global efforts to bring developed and developing countries together to advance a scientifically sound and equitable outcome.

Global warming threatens to further entrench global poverty, reduce the availability of scarce resources, create or exacerbate security threats, and in the case of some small island states, it threatens their very existence. The effects of global warming will be disproportionately felt by nations with the least ability to cope.

Developed countries are uniquely positioned to lead the effort to secure a multilateral commitment to greenhouse gas reductions in line with the latest science and with principles of justice. We urge your support for two key elements of the existing legal structure for global efforts to halt climate change: agreed global targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions for developed countries and international compliance provisions to enforce reduction commitments.

Specifically, even though it is not participating in the Kyoto Protocol, the United States, under the UNFCCC's Long-term Cooperative Action negotiating track, should commit to efforts comparable to those of other developed countries, while leaving the Kyoto Protocol intact in order to preserve its hard-won infrastructure.

Finance for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries is equally critical for a successful Copenhagen outcome. Though estimates of the costs of addressing climate change in developing countries vary, they fall within the range of hundreds of billions of dollars a year. We request that the U.S. commits to contributing a fair share of adequate and predictable public funding commensurate with the need. Countries that are able to adapt to climate change, build low-carbon economies, and protect their people and natural resources will be more stable, more secure, and better able to link with a vibrant green U.S. economy. Further, climate mitigation and adaptation financing should be channeled through a new Global Climate Fund established under the authority of the UNFCCC with an equitable governance structure.

We are hopeful that, under your leadership, the United States can raise the bar globally to address global warming in a spirit of environmental integrity and climate justice.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Pete Stark
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress

Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress