



Instituto Laboral de la Raza

2010 Green Labor-Capital Forum Using Labor's Capital to Repower America

Our Noon Lunch Forum

Friday, July 23rd, 2010 • 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Our Forum Speakers:



Rosa Rios

United States Treasurer



Bill Lockyer

California State Treasurer



Anne Stausboll

CEO, CalPERS

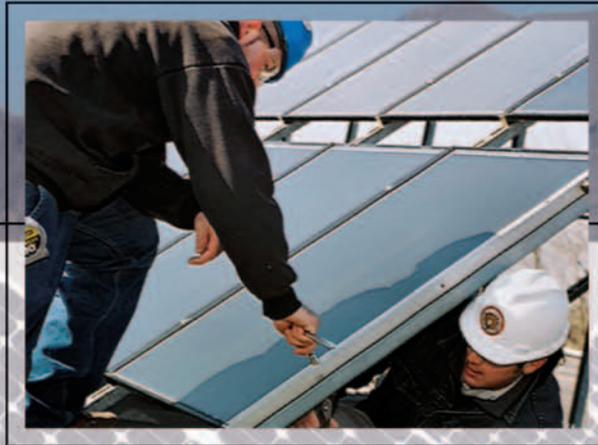


Steve Westly

The Westly Group

Our 2010 Forum's theme is **Using Labor's Capital to Repower America** — in recognition that the climate crisis combined with our pressing need for sustainable jobs requires the reinventing of our power and transportation infrastructure.

*"Our goal is to transform the world economy into one that is clean, green and sustainable."
- California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer at UN Investor Summit on Climate Risk*



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Welcome

Instituto Laboral de la Raza

2947 16th Street • San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Thank you for your attendance and support of Instituto Laboral de la Raza's 2010 Green Labor-Capital Forum, "Using Labor's Capital to Repower America". This gathering is focused on using the power of Labor's capital, in the form of public employee and Union pension funds, as a vehicle for growing green jobs, clean-tech business and a sustainable economy.

Our first forum in August of 2008 took place one month after Al Gore issued his "Generational Challenge to Repower America". That challenge has now evolved into a national campaign. We are proud to play a role in helping to advance these ideas into a movement to achieve a goal that is so important for both America and the world.

I would like to thank our Forum's speakers for their commitment to the vision of a green sustainable economy and for their time and commitment that has made this gathering possible. Our intention has been to use our position as a community based workers resource center to create a platform that brings business, labor and capital together and use that tremendous power for achieving common goals. With the help of Steve Westly, Anne Stausboll, State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and our special guest United States Treasurer Rosa Rios we have been able to create a forum on a scale that is truly appropriate to the grave challenges presented by the state of our economy and our environment. Finally would like to thank our board of directors and our friends in Organized Labor for their continuing support in helping us to serve our community.

One of the best things that you can do to support our work is to make a donation directly to the Instituto. Please consider our 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporate status for your income tax deduction. We have inserted a complimentary calendar to remind you of our earnest request.

We are very pleased to provide this forum as our own contribution to transforming our economy into one that is clean, green and sustainable. Enjoy your day.

In Unity,

Sarah M. Shaker

Sarah M. Shaker,
Executive Director
Instituto Laboral de la Raza



We salute Instituto Laboral de la Raza's Green Labor-Capital Forum

**Union Labor and a green economy can
repower America and lift people out of poverty!**

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Featured Speakers



Rosie Rios

United States Treasurer

Rosie Rios serves as Treasurer of the United States. The U.S. Treasurer advises the Secretary on matters relating to coinage, currency and the production of other instruments by the United States. In addition, the Treasurer serves as a senior advisor and representative of the Treasury on behalf of the Secretary in the areas of community development and public engagement.

Prior to her confirmation as Treasurer, Rios worked at MacFarlane Partners, where she was Managing Director of Investments. Working with MacFarlane Partners' development and global capital partners, Rios played a central role in facilitating equity transactions for large mixed-use development projects in major urban areas. Last November, Rios took a leave of absence from MacFarlane Partners to serve on the Treasury/Federal Reserve Transition Team.

Most recently, Rios was a Trustee of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) in California and served on the boards of the California Association of Local Economic Development (CALED), the Unity Council and the Toigo Foundation. In addition, she is a Fellow with the Royal Society for the Arts. Rios received her Bachelor's degree from Harvard University.



Bill Lockyer

California State Treasurer

Bill Lockyer was elected on November 7, 2006 as California's 32nd State Treasurer. The State Treasurer's Office (STO) has many tools to help provide residents what they need to create a stronger California – good-paying jobs, superior schools, improved transportation, quality health care, more affordable housing and a cleaner environment. Lockyer is committed to putting those tools to maximum use.

As Treasurer, Lockyer has continued his commitment to environmental protection. He sponsored "green bond" legislation to make government buildings more energy efficient and reduce their contribution to climate change. He sponsored another measure that makes it cheaper for schools and other governmental entities to install renewable energy generation at their facilities. He revived the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, which provides low-cost financing for renewable energy and alternative fuels projects.

From 1999-2006, Lockyer served as California Attorney General and fashioned one of the most impressive records of accomplishment in the office's history. Prior to his election as Attorney General in 1998, Lockyer served 25 years in the California Legislature, culminating his Capitol career with a stint as Senate President pro Tempore. In that leadership position, Lockyer crafted agreements to balance the state budget, and reform government programs to make them run more efficiently and effectively for taxpayers.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Lockyer earned his law degree from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento while serving in the State Senate. He also received a teaching credential from California State University, Hayward. He is married to Nadia Maria Lockyer and has a daughter, Lisa, and a son, Diego.



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Featured Speakers



Anne Stausboll

CEO, CalPERS

Anne Stausboll became Chief Executive Officer of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) in January 2009. She is the eighth CEO and first woman to head the pension fund. Ms. Stausboll oversees 2,300 employees, a budget of more than \$332 million, and programs spanning investments, health and retirement benefits administration, actuarial and employer services, supplemental retirement programs, government affairs, stakeholder relations, and numerous support functions. In addition, Ms. Stausboll serves as the co-chair of the Ceres Board, the nation's largest coalition of investors, environmental groups and nonprofit organizations working with companies to

address sustainability challenges such as global climate change.

Before coming to CalPERS, Ms. Stausboll was Chief Deputy Treasurer to the California State Treasurer, beginning in July 2000. Prior to serving in the State Treasurer's Office, Ms. Stausboll worked for six years in the CalPERS Legal Office, including two years as Deputy General Counsel.

Ms. Stausboll received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Oberlin College and her Juris Doctor degree (Order of the Coif) from the University of California, Davis School of Law. In addition, Ms. Stausboll was named one of the Top 25 Nonbank Women in Finance, part of "U.S. Banker" magazine's 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking for 2007, 2008, and 2009.



Steve Westly

Managing Partner, The Westly Group

Prior to founding The Westly Group, Steve Westly served as the Controller and Chief Fiscal Officer of the state of California - the world's sixth largest economy. As Controller, he chaired the State Lands Commission and served on 63 other boards and commissions, including CalPERS and CalSTRS, the nation's two largest public pension funds, which together invest more than \$350 billion. During his four-year term, Mr. Westly spearheaded innovative tax programs that helped close the State's budget deficit and also led an effort to commit more than \$1 billion to clean technology investments.

Mr. Westly helped guide the online auction company eBay through its period of most rapid growth, serving as the Senior Vice President of Marketing, Business Development, M&A and International. Mr. Westly helped bring eBay to Europe and Asia and developed the marketing and acquisition strategies that paved the path for the firm's exponential growth.

Mr. Westly began his career in Washington, D.C., where he worked first on Capitol Hill and later in the Office of Conservation and Solar at the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Westly returned to California to become special assistant to the President of the California Public Utilities Commission. While there, he published two books on alternative energy and the utilities. Mr. Westly also served as the California Co-Chair for the Obama for President campaign.

Mr. Westly holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and an MBA from Stanford's Graduate School of Business, where he served on the faculty for five years. Mr. Westly and his wife, Anita, run the Westly Foundation, which provides education and health care services for children and underserved communities throughout California.

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Special thanks to Steve Westly, Joel Berman, Josh Becker, Chuck Mack, Rome Aloise, Russ Burns, Ron Lind, Dan Rush and Kelly Rush.



Please Invest in the Instituto!

We invite you to support our mission of service, our innovations and our vision for the future.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit nonpartisan workers resource center. We provide legal service, peer counseling, financial education and access to an extensive network of services.

The Instituto was founded in 1982 by Latino labor leaders and community activists to defend the legal rights of workers that do not readily have access to protection by labor unions. Our board of directors consists of labor union officers and union members.

The Instituto provides free legal services focused on enforcing California's labor laws. We defend the rights of people who have been exploited, injured, unjustly treated, discriminated against or sexually harassed and have nowhere to turn. Most of our clients are unorganized working immigrants from Mexico, Central America and South America. **We serve very poor, very hard working people and the families that they support.** We are often described as a kind of social emergency room. We have been serving workers throughout California for over 28-years from our headquarters in the Mission District of San Francisco. **Located a half block from the 16th & Mission Street BART station, our door is always open to clients, volunteers and supporters.**



Instituto headquarters in the Mission — open 7 days a week, serving the community for over 28 years



Executive Director Sarah Shaker with staff members of Instituto Laboral De La Raza

While our day-to-day mission continues to be focused on defending the legal rights of the working poor, today we serve as a workers resource center with increasing abilities to address larger social issues related to equality, access, economic development and environmental sustainability.

We use our position as an established community based organization to create a strong platform to bring labor, business, government and community leaders together for advancing common goals.

We are well known for our **National Labor Community Awards** that we organize annually in San Francisco. This “**Summit of Solidarity**” has grown to be the largest event of its kind in the country. Our annual **National Labor Community Awards** and our newer **Green Labor-Capital Forums** include the highest ranking leaders of organized labor, business and government. They are unique opportunities for building and strengthening relationships.

We are seeking support to for our operations and to expand our innovative service programs.

We are continuing to developing and expand our **Bi-lingual Financial Literacy Workshops** that we bring to hiring halls of labor unions. **Working Media** is our new program using web-video technology to the tell stories of our clients, our supporters and our issues. It expands the reach of our events and our voice to an online audience that is both 24-7 and worldwide. **Instituto Information Services** is our new program using technology and cloud computing to deliver access to information and vocational training for low-income working people. We have created an organized **Instituto Support Group** that allows volunteers and volunteer project managers to work together and collaborate using web-based tools and the Internet supporting Instituto's operations and service programs.

Please review our www.ilaboral.org web site, which has a great deal of material on our work.

We Need Your Support!



Instituto Laboral de la Raza offers a great opportunity to directly fund a small organization with a big vision that does excellent work serving the working poor. We are a very lean, transparent and mission driven community organization. We serve over 165 clients per month, over 2,000 per year, with our legal services. We are open 7 days a week, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm during the week, and by appointment on the weekend. All of our services are free.

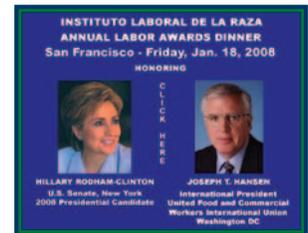
The Instituto operates on a modest annual budget of about \$300,000, of which \$250,000 is allocated to program costs and the balance going towards administrative costs. We have just seven full-time staff. Our highest staff salary is just about \$36,000 per year. We are funded by donations and

grants from foundations, businesses and labor organizations. Our events are designed as a social enterprise that both earn us revenue and create value for all who participate.

The Instituto is small enough so that donors, at whatever level they contribute, have a significant impact on our ability to provide services. Instituto Laboral de la Raza is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Financial contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed.

For foundations, businesses and labor organizations we have an Annual Donor-Sponsor program designed to invest in and support our work all year long. Annual Donor-Sponsors provide sustainable funding for our daily operations. We recognize this support through our outreach materials, our web-media, and our events that reach a unique audience of local, statewide and national leaders.

The Instituto is uniquely positioned as an innovative, pragmatic and results oriented community organization that brings together labor, business, and civic leaders on a common ground of support for the working poor and helping to advance practical solutions to pressing social problems.



Jack Ehnes, CEO, CalSTRS pension fund, speaking at Instituto's 2008 Green Labor-Capital Forum

We invite you to get to know us! Visit our office! Invite us to meet with you!

Tell your associates, members or staff about our volunteer opportunities!

Please Invest in the Instituto! We Need Your Support!

Contact: Sarah Shaker, Executive Director
415-431-7522 sshaker@ilaboral.org



Instituto's 2008 National Labor Community Awards Dinner



Congresswoman Barbara Lee & Chris Gardner, Author of The Pursuit of Happiness, Signing Books at 2009 Instituto Reception



Art Torres, John Garamendi and Art Pulaski at the 2009 National Labor Community Awards Dinner



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August 21st, 2008

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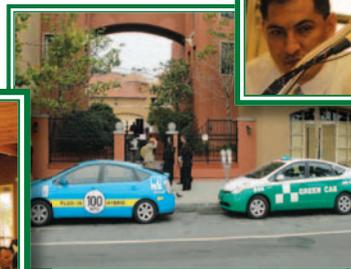
*Using Labor's Capital for Green Jobs,
a Sustainable World and Economic Growth*

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John Chiang
California State Controller

Jack Ehnes
CEO,
CalSTRS California State
Teachers' Retirement System

Jerome Ringo
President, Apollo Alliance

Bob Balgenorth
President, State Building
& Construction Trades Council



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**We Support Using Labor's Capital for
Green Jobs, a Sustainable World
and Economic Growth!**



Let's Use Labor's Capital to Repower America!

Best wishes from
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Jacques Loveall

President, UFCW 8-Golden State
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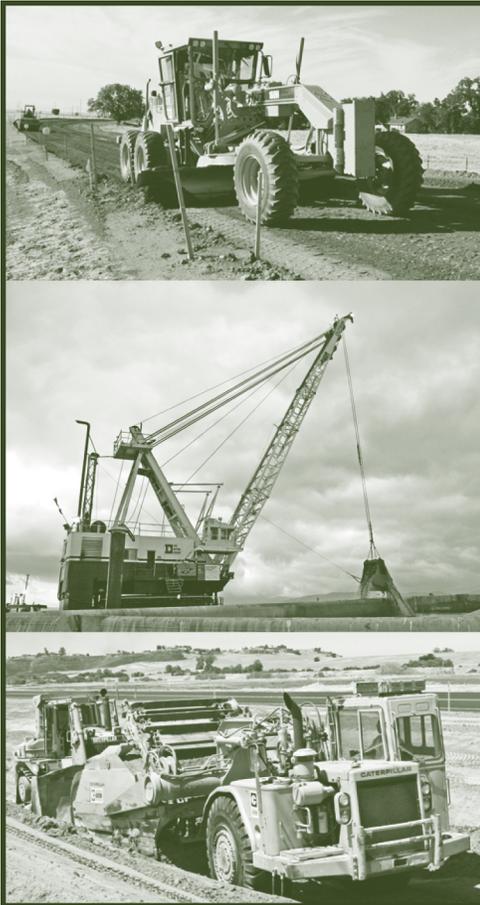
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Congratulations
to
Instituto Laboral de la Raza
on your **Green Labor Capital Forum!**

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to Repower America
and Lift People Out of Poverty!



Best Wishes and Continued Success to
The Instituto Laboral de la Raza

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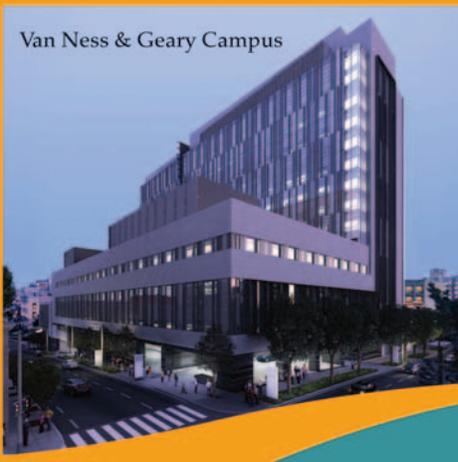
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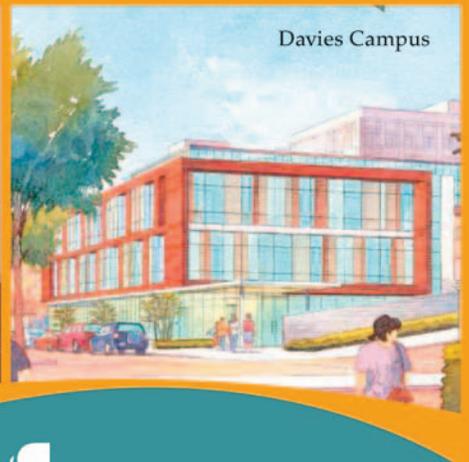
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Robert Jennings, Labor Trustee, Pipe Trades District Council 36

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Investors Representing \$13 Trillion Call for Climate Action Now

NEW YORK, New York, January 14, 2010 (ENS) - The world's largest investors today issued a statement calling on the United States and other governments



Investors urge governments to address the risks of climate change.

to "act now to catalyze development of a low-carbon economy and to attract the vast amount of private capital necessary for such a transformation."

The U.S., European and Australian investor groups, who together represent \$13 trillion in assets, called for "a price on carbon emissions" and "well-designed carbon markets" to provide "a cost-effective way of achieving emissions reductions."

The statement was announced at the Investor Summit on Climate Risk, a meeting of 450 global investors at the United Nations that includes U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern, billionaire investor George Soros and former Vice President Al Gore.

The investors said while some progress towards a global agreement limiting greenhouse gas emissions was made at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen in December 2009, "we cannot wait for a global treaty."

"Policymakers made only incremental progress in Copenhagen, leaving a great deal of work to be done to address the risks that climate change presents to the global economy and to investments," they said.

They said, "we underscore the importance of concluding a legally-binding agreement this year with comprehensive long-term measures for mitigation, forest protection, adaptation, finance, and technology transfer, including a global emission reduction target of 50-85% by 2050, consistent with estimates from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

"Though we are sobered by how much still remains to be done after Copenhagen, we nevertheless are encouraged by the incremental progress made," the investors said.

"Achieving some level of commitment from the United States, China, and India is a crucial and unprecedented step, and we urge nations to submit ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments as part of the Copenhagen Accord before the end of this month."

The Copenhagen Accord is an agreement drawn up by heads of government from the United States, China, India, Brazil and South Africa that was recognized by the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Copenhagen summit, but it is not a global climate treaty.

U.S. climate official Stern told the investors meeting today, "The Copenhagen Accord and a global treaty are not at odds, but can work together to get the job done."



U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern at the Copenhagen summit.

The investors said today that the commitment in Copenhagen by developed countries to provide billions of dollars in financing for developing countries to cope with climate change "represents an important start."

"Some 85 percent of the financial resources needed to cope with climate challenges must come from private sources. In effect, the battle over climate change will be won - or lost - in the hands of private investors," said Bjarne Graven Larsen, CIO of ATP, Denmark's largest institutional investor.

"In order to play this role effectively, strong, stable and credible policy frameworks are crucial," Larsen said. "We are waiting for policymakers to deliver."

"Investors are poised and ready to scale up investments in building the low carbon economy, but without policies that create a stable investment environment our hands are tied," said Anne Stausboll, chief executive officer of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), America's largest public pension fund with more than \$205 billion in assets.



Anne Stausboll

"U.S. leadership is critical in this regard, including U.S. Senate action to limit and put a price on carbon emissions," Stausboll said.

"What investors need most from national and state legislatures are transparency, longevity and certainty," said Kevin Parker,

global head of Deutsche Asset Management and member of Deutsche Bank's Group Executive Committee.

"Until the U.S. Congress passes climate regulation, America will be at a competitive disadvantage in the development of renewable energy and other climate change industries," he said.

The Investor Statement on Catalyzing Investment in a Low-Carbon Economy was endorsed by four groups representing more than 190 investors - the Investor Network on Climate Risk, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, IIGCC, the Investor Group on Climate Change, and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative.

"Given that Copenhagen was a missed opportunity to create one fully functional international carbon market, it is more important than ever that individual governments implement regional and domestic policy change to stimulate the creation of a low carbon economy," said Peter Dunsombe, chairman of the IIGCC, a network of European investors.

"Time is of the essence and world leaders from both developed and developing countries need to act now to compensate for the lack of progress at an international level," he said.

In their statement, the investors observed that the costs of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are "both affordable and significantly lower than the costs of inaction," but said developing a global low-carbon economy will require "substantially increased levels of investment from the private sector."

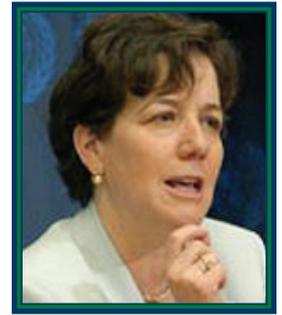
The UNFCCC Secretariat estimates that more than \$200 billion in total additional investment capital for mitigation is required each year by 2030 just to return greenhouse gases to their current levels by then.

The International Energy Agency estimates that additional investment of \$10.5 trillion is needed globally in just the energy sector from 2010-2030 to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at around 450 parts per million, the investors noted.

"This equates to roughly 0.1% of the total value of world financial assets and approximately 0.23% of the total value of debt and equity securities, so this is certainly an achievable level of investment - and one that would yield returns in terms of energy savings, energy security, reduced capital expenditures for pollution control, and avoided climate damages," they said. "But it is also well above current investment levels."

"As powerful as these investors are, they can't underwrite a clean energy transformation at the critical scale needed without clear rules only government can provide," said Mindy Lubber, president of Ceres, a U.S. coalition of investors and environmental groups, and director of the Investor Network on Climate Risk.

"Government policy can make clean energy cost-competitive by leveling the playing field with fossil fuels," Lubber said. "Only government policy provides the long-term certainty that can turbo-charge private investment in clean energy, address the climate change threat and protect our planet."



Mindy Lubber

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THE CALIFORNIA TEAMSTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL OPPOSES ANY ROLL-BACK OF AB 32

April 23, 2010 — Sacramento, CA — The California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, representing more than 250,000 union members in California, has unanimously voted to oppose any roll-back of California's historic greenhouse gas reduction law, known as AB 32. If the so-called "Logue Initiative," which seeks to gut AB 32, makes it on the ballot, our Union will oppose it.

Randy Cammack, Co-Chair of the Council and President of Teamsters Joint Council 42 in Southern California, said, "Our union strongly believes that we must reject efforts to move backwards on protection of the environment. Our members are citizens and neighbors as well as workers. We breathe the same air, drink the same water, and live on the same planet with every other human being and we strongly believe that reduction of pollution must be a top priority for our state and nation. There is no inconsistency between protecting our environment and building a strong and vibrant economy."

"In the 1960s, the Teamsters refused to heed industry calls that we oppose the elimination of leaded gasoline. Our employers predicted that, if lead was removed from gasoline, there would be dire consequences for our members and for the economy. Those predictions were proved wrong. In the 1980s and 1990s, we supported the enactment of mandatory recycling laws and again, the predictions of Doomsday were proved wrong. And now, the people who are trying to roll back AB 32 are again predicting the worst. We don't believe their Chicken Little "sky is falling" predictions any more now than we did in the past. A green economy means green jobs for our members," said Rome Aloise, Co-Chair of Council and the President of Teamsters Joint Council 7 in Northern California.

1127 11th St., Ste. 501 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cateamsters.com

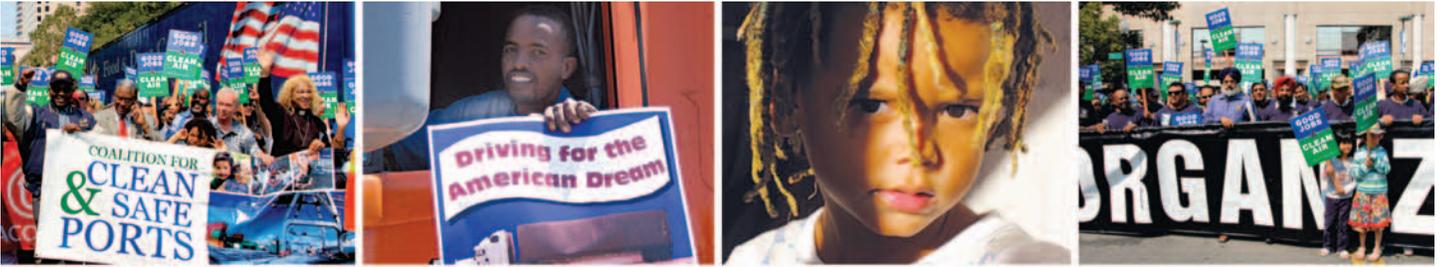


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It's time to Get Real

What's the best way to create jobs and boost our economy? Invest in a clean energy future. And we have an opportunity to do just that. Capping carbon pollution will create thousands of high-paying American jobs. It's an investment in our future - with an immediate payoff. Find out more: repoweramerica.org

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Port Truck Drivers Deserve a Shot at the American Dream

Every day 20,000 California truck drivers haul containers full of goods from the busiest ports in the country to large retailers such as Wal-Mart and Target. These truck drivers keep our world's economy moving, often working as many as 14-15 hours a day.

Most port truck drivers are barely paid enough to make ends meet because they are currently misclassified as "independent contractors" by the trucking companies they work for. Drivers aren't the only ones who suffer from this system; everyone who breathes the air in the Bay Area pays a price. With poverty wages, port drivers can't afford to replace or retrofit their polluting diesel trucks. Becoming employees would give them an opportunity to drive cleaner trucks and form a union to achieve the American Dream.

Join the Fight for Clean Air & Good Jobs

The Port of Oakland is considering a "Clean Trucks" proposal similar to a landmark policy enacted by the Port of Los Angeles, which would grant drivers "employee" rights. This would make the trucking companies and their retail shipper clients responsible for the costs of buying and maintaining new environmentally-friendly trucks.

Get Involved

Find the Coalition for Clean & Safe Ports on Facebook, or visit us at www.oakland.cleanandsafeports.org, or blog.cleanandsafeports.org.



CHANGE to WIN



www.cleanandsafeports.org

Al Gore: A Generational Challenge

July 17, 2008

Ladies and gentlemen:



There are times in the history of our nation when our very way of life depends upon dispelling illusions and awakening to the challenge of a present danger. In such moments, we are called upon to move quickly and boldly to shake off complacency, throw aside old habits and rise, clear-eyed and alert, to the necessity of big changes.

Those who, for whatever reason, refuse to do their part must either be persuaded to join the effort or asked to step aside. This is such a moment. The survival of the United States of America as we know it is at risk. And even more — if more should be required — the future of human civilization is at stake.

I don't remember a time in our country when so many things seemed to be going so wrong simultaneously. Our economy is in terrible shape and getting worse, gasoline prices are increasing dramatically, and so are electricity rates. Jobs are being outsourced. Home mortgages are in trouble. Banks, automobile companies and other institutions we depend upon are under growing pressure. Distinguished senior business leaders are telling us that this is just the beginning unless we find the courage to make some major changes quickly.

The climate crisis, in particular, is getting a lot worse - much more quickly than predicted. Scientists with access to data from Navy submarines traversing underneath the North polar ice cap have warned that there is now a 75 percent chance that within five years the entire ice cap will completely disappear during the summer months. This will further increase the melting pressure on Greenland. According to experts, the Jakobshavn glacier, one of Greenland's largest, is moving at a faster rate than ever before, losing 20 million tons of ice every day, equivalent to the amount of water used every year by the residents of New York City.

Two major studies from military intelligence experts have warned our leaders about the dangerous national security implications of the climate crisis, including the possibility of

hundreds of millions of climate refugees destabilizing nations around the world.

Just two days ago, 27 senior statesmen and retired military leaders warned of the national security threat from an "energy tsunami" that would be triggered by a loss of our access to foreign oil. Meanwhile, the war in Iraq continues, and now the war in Afghanistan appears to be getting worse.

And by the way, our weather sure is getting strange, isn't it? There seem to be more tornadoes than in living memory, longer droughts, bigger downpours and record floods. Unprecedented fires are burning in California and elsewhere in the American West. Higher temperatures lead to drier vegetation that makes kindling for mega-fires of the kind that have been raging in Canada, Greece, Russia, China, South America, Australia and Africa. Scientists in the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Science at Tel Aviv University tell us that for every one degree increase in temperature, lightning strikes will go up another 10 percent. And it is lightning, after all, that is principally responsible for igniting the conflagration in California today.

Like a lot of people, it seems to me that all these problems are bigger than any of the solutions that have thus far been proposed for them, and that's been worrying me.

I'm convinced that one reason we've seemed paralyzed in the face of these crises is our tendency to offer old solutions to each crisis separately - without taking the others into account. And these outdated proposals have not only been ineffective - they almost always make the other crises even worse.

Yet when we look at all three of these seemingly intractable challenges at the same time, we can see the common thread running through them, deeply ironic in its simplicity: our dangerous over-reliance on carbon-based fuels is at the core of all three of these challenges - the economic, environmental and national security crises.

We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the planet. Every bit of that's got to change.

But if we grab hold of that common thread and pull it hard, all of these complex problems begin to unravel and we will find that we're holding the answer to all of them right in our hand.

to Repower America

The answer is to end our reliance on carbon-based fuels.

In my search for genuinely effective answers to the climate crisis, I have held a series of “solutions summits” with engineers, scientists, and CEOs. In those discussions, one thing has become abundantly clear: when you connect the dots, it turns out that the real solutions to the climate crisis are the very same measures needed to renew our economy and escape the trap of ever-rising energy prices. Moreover, they are also the very same solutions we need to guarantee our national security without having to go to war in the Persian Gulf.

What if we could use fuels that are not expensive, don't cause pollution and are abundantly available right here at home?

We have such fuels. Scientists have confirmed that enough solar energy falls on the surface of the earth every 40 minutes to meet 100 percent of the entire world's energy needs for a full year. Tapping just a small portion of this solar energy could provide all of the electricity America uses.

And enough wind power blows through the Midwest corridor every day to also meet 100 percent of US electricity demand. Geothermal energy, similarly, is capable of providing enormous supplies of electricity for America.

The quickest, cheapest and best way to start using all this renewable energy is in the production of electricity. In fact, we can start right now using solar power, wind power and geothermal power to make electricity for our homes and businesses.

But to make this exciting potential a reality, and truly solve our nation's problems, we need a new start.

That's why I'm proposing today a strategic initiative designed to free us from the crises that are holding us down and to regain control of our own destiny. It's not the only thing we need to do. But this strategic challenge is the lynchpin of a bold new strategy needed to re-power America.

Today I challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years.

This goal is achievable, affordable and transformative. It represents a challenge to all Americans - in every walk of life: to our political leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, engineers, and to every citizen.

A few years ago, it would not have been possible to issue such a challenge. But here's what's changed: the sharp cost reductions now beginning to take place in solar, wind, and geothermal power - coupled with the recent dramatic price increases for oil and coal - have radically changed the economics of energy.

When I first went to Congress 32 years ago, I listened to experts testify that if oil ever got to \$35 a barrel, then renewable sources of energy would become competitive. Well, today, the price of oil is over \$135 per barrel. And sure enough, billions of dollars of new investment are flowing into the development of concentrated solar thermal, photovoltaics, windmills, geothermal plants, and a variety of ingenious new ways to improve our efficiency and conserve presently wasted energy.

And as the demand for renewable energy grows, the costs will continue to fall. Let me give you one revealing example: the price of the specialized silicon used to make solar cells was recently as high as \$300 per kilogram. But the newest contracts have prices as low as \$50 a kilogram.

You know, the same thing happened with computer chips - also made out of silicon. The price paid for the same performance came down by 50 percent every 18 months - year after year, and that's what's happened for 40 years in a row.

To those who argue that we do not yet have the technology to accomplish these results with renewable energy: I ask them to come with me to meet the entrepreneurs who will drive this revolution. I've seen what they are doing and I have no doubt that we can meet this challenge.

To those who say the costs are still too high: I ask them to consider whether the costs of oil and coal will ever stop increasing if we keep relying on quickly depleting energy sources to feed a rapidly growing demand all around the world. When demand for oil and coal increases, their price goes up. When demand for solar cells increases, the price often comes down.

When we send money to foreign countries to buy nearly 70 percent of the oil we use every day, they build new skyscrapers and we lose jobs. When we spend that money building solar arrays and windmills, we build competitive industries and gain jobs here at home.

Of course there are those who will tell us this can't be done. Some of the voices we hear are the defenders of the status quo - the ones with a vested interest in perpetuating the current system, no matter how high a price the rest of us will have to pay. But even those who reap the profits of the carbon age have to recognize the inevitability of its demise. As one OPEC oil minister observed, "The Stone Age didn't end because of a shortage of stones."

To those who say 10 years is not enough time, I respectfully ask them to consider what the world's scientists are telling us about the risks we face if we don't act in 10 years. The leading experts predict that we have less than 10 years to make dramatic changes in our global warming pollution lest we lose our ability to ever recover from this environmental crisis. When the use of oil and coal goes up, pollution goes up. When the use of solar, wind and geothermal increases, pollution comes down.

To those who say the challenge is not politically viable: I suggest they go before the American people and try to defend the status quo. Then bear witness to the people's appetite for change.

I for one do not believe our country can withstand 10 more years of the status quo. Our families cannot stand 10 more years of gas price increases. Our workers cannot stand 10 more years of job losses and outsourcing of factories. Our economy cannot stand 10 more years of sending \$2 billion every 24 hours to foreign countries for oil. And our soldiers and their families cannot take another 10 years of repeated troop deployments to dangerous regions that just happen to have large oil supplies.

What could we do instead for the next 10 years? What should we do during the next 10 years? Some of our greatest accomplishments as a nation have resulted from commitments to reach a goal that fell well beyond the next election: the Marshall Plan, Social Security, the interstate highway system. But a political promise to do something 40 years from now is universally ignored because everyone knows that it's meaningless. Ten years is about the maximum time that we as a nation can hold a steady aim and hit our target.

When President John F. Kennedy challenged our nation to land a man on the moon and bring him back safely in 10 years, many people doubted we could accomplish that goal. But 8 years and 2 months later, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the surface of the moon.

To be sure, reaching the goal of 100 percent renewable and truly clean electricity within 10 years will require us to overcome many obstacles. At present, for example, we do not have a unified national grid that is sufficiently advanced

to link the areas where the sun shines and the wind blows to the cities in the East and the West that need the electricity. Our national electric grid is critical infrastructure, as vital to the health and security of our economy as our highways and telecommunication networks. Today, our grids are antiquated, fragile, and vulnerable to cascading failure. Power outages and defects in the current grid system cost US businesses more than \$120 billion dollars a year. It has to be upgraded anyway.

We could further increase the value and efficiency of a Unified National Grid by helping our struggling auto giants switch to the manufacture of plug-in electric cars. An electric vehicle fleet would sharply reduce the cost of driving a car, reduce pollution, and increase the flexibility of our electricity grid.

At the same time, of course, we need to greatly improve our commitment to efficiency and conservation. That's the best investment we can make.

America's transition to renewable energy sources must also include adequate provisions to assist those Americans who would unfairly face hardship. For example, we must recognize those who have toiled in dangerous conditions to bring us our present energy supply. We should guarantee good jobs in the fresh air and sunshine for any coal miner displaced by impacts on the coal industry. Every single one of them.

Of course, we could and should speed up this transition by insisting that the price of carbon-based energy include the costs of the environmental damage it causes. I have long supported a sharp reduction in payroll taxes with the difference made up in CO2 taxes. We should tax what we burn, not what we earn. This is the single most important policy change we can make.

In order to foster international cooperation, it is also essential that the United States rejoin the global community and lead efforts to secure an international treaty at Copenhagen in December of next year that includes a cap on CO2 emissions and a global partnership that recognizes the necessity of addressing the threats of extreme poverty and disease as part of the world's agenda for solving the climate crisis.

Of course the greatest obstacle to meeting the challenge of 100 percent renewable electricity in 10 years may be the deep dysfunction of our politics and our self-governing system as it exists today. In recent years, our politics has tended toward incremental proposals made up of small policies designed to avoid offending special interests, alternating with occasional baby steps in the right direction. Our democracy has become sclerotic at a time when these crises require boldness.

It is only a truly dysfunctional system that would buy into the perverse logic that the short-term answer to high gasoline prices is drilling for more oil ten years from now.

Am I the only one who finds it strange that our government so often adopts a so-called solution that has absolutely nothing to do with the problem it is supposed to address? When people rightly complain about higher gasoline prices, we propose to give more money to the oil companies and pretend that they're going to bring gasoline prices down. It will do nothing of the sort, and everyone knows it. If we keep going back to the same policies that have never ever worked in the past and have served only to produce the highest gasoline prices in history alongside the greatest oil company profits in history, nobody should be surprised if we get the same result over and over again. But the Congress may be poised to move in that direction anyway because some of them are being stampeded by lobbyists for special interests that know how to make the system work for them instead of the American people.

If you want to know the truth about gasoline prices, here it is: the exploding demand for oil, especially in places like China, is overwhelming the rate of new discoveries by so much that oil prices are almost certain to continue upward over time no matter what the oil companies promise. And politicians cannot bring gasoline prices down in the short term.

However, there actually is one extremely effective way to bring the costs of driving a car way down within a few short years. The way to bring gas prices down is to end our dependence on oil and use the renewable sources that can give us the equivalent of \$1 per gallon gasoline.

Many Americans have begun to wonder whether or not we've simply lost our appetite for bold policy solutions. And folks who claim to know how our system works these days have told us we might as well forget about our political system doing anything bold, especially if it is contrary to the wishes of special interests. And I've got to admit, that sure seems to be the way things have been going. But I've begun to hear different voices in this country from people who are not only tired of baby steps and special interest politics, but are hungry for a new, different and bold approach.

We are on the eve of a presidential election. We are in the midst of an international climate treaty process that will conclude its work before the end of the first year of the new president's term. It is a great error to say that the United States must wait for others to join us in this matter. In fact, we must move first, because that is the key to getting others to follow; and because moving first is in our own national interest.

So I ask you to join with me to call on every candidate, at every level, to accept this challenge - for America to be running on 100 percent zero-carbon electricity in 10 years. It's time for us to move beyond empty rhetoric. We need to act now.

This is a generational moment. A moment when we decide our own path and our collective fate. I'm asking you - each of you - to join me and build this future. Please join the WE campaign at wecansolveit.org. We need you. And we need you now. We're committed to changing not just light bulbs, but laws. And laws will only change with leadership.

On July 16, 1969, the United States of America was finally ready to meet President Kennedy's challenge of landing Americans on the moon. I will never forget standing beside my father a few miles from the launch site, waiting for the giant Saturn 5 rocket to lift Apollo 11 into the sky. I was a young man, 21 years old, who had graduated from college a month before and was enlisting in the United States Army three weeks later.

I will never forget the inspiration of those minutes. The power and the vibration of the giant rocket's engines shook my entire body. As I watched the rocket rise, slowly at first and then with great speed, the sound was deafening. We craned our necks to follow its path until we were looking straight up into the air. And then four days later, I watched along with hundreds of millions of others around the world as Neil Armstrong took one small step to the surface of the moon and changed the history of the human race.

We must now lift our nation to reach another goal that will change history. Our entire civilization depends upon us now embarking on a new journey of exploration and discovery. Our success depends on our willingness as a people to undertake this journey and to complete it within 10 years. Once again, we have an opportunity to take a giant leap for humankind.

Challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years.

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- AECOM President and Chief Executive Officer John M. Dionisio

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In November of 2008, Californians approved the High Speed Rail Bond Act and voted to take one millions cars off the road and create 160,000 new high paying construction jobs. Today the California Alliance for Jobs is working with both labor and management to capture federal stimulus money, attractive private investors, and get our economy back on track by making California's high speed rail project a reality.



As a labor-management partnership, The California Alliance for Jobs represents more than 2500 heavy construction companies and 80,000 union construction workers in northern and central California.

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Mitchell Kapor Foundation

Access Fairness Equity

The Mitchell Kapor Foundation, works to ensure fairness and equity, particularly for low-income communities of color. Areas of focus for the foundation include responses to the global climate crisis, protecting the integrity of the electoral process, and affording greater access to college education for young black men.

As climate change, food access, and green jobs become commonplace issues across the United States, the Mitchell Kapor Foundation is committed to working with organizations that create meaningful opportunities for low-income communities of color to identify and enact solutions to these problems.

Our Green Access program speaks to the urgent need to create *opportunities* for low-income communities of color to share in the work and discussions on issues ranging from carbon emissions to the local organic food movement. We seek to ensure that our target communities benefit from the growing “green economy.”

Mitchell Kapor Foundation

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