



December 5, 2008

Dear Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team,

The Health and Environmental Funders Network (a program of the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity) is a network of funders committed to supporting an increasingly powerful movement towards healthier people, ecosystems, and communities. HEFN's community of over 125 foundations works at the intersection of health and the environment. HEFN members invest millions of dollars a year to tackle environmental threats to human health and to support effective transitions toward healthier, more just, more sustainable communities and ecosystems. More information about HEFN may be found at our website: <http://www.hefn.org>.

We are excited about the opportunities this period offers: the new Administration will have the opportunity to replace hazards with safer alternatives, prevent disease, improve the well-being of vulnerable populations, clean up contaminated communities and ecosystems, and create a healthier materials base and new jobs.

We stand ready to bring our cumulative assets -- foundation dollars and intellectual capital -- to bear in continuing to support efforts of the non-profit and scientific community to advance these goals. And we look forward to working with the Administration to help connect government officials with our colleagues in this work -- health affected groups, community advocates, health professionals, faith-based organizations, labor groups, and the scientific community -- for effective national action.

The attached recommendations from Erik Olson, a longtime leader and expert in our field, represent a number of first steps on that path. As you work to address the issues raised in the attached set of recommendations, we would welcome the opportunity to engage in or facilitate a dialogue on this work, to provide expertise, as it is useful, and to explore partnerships with the Administration to shape a strong and healthy future for the United States.

The undersigned represent leaders within the Health and Environmental Funders Network, which facilitates philanthropic learning and collaboration but does not itself take stances on behalf of its members. Foundation affiliations are provided for identification purposes only.

Sincerely,

Herbert Bedolfe, Marisla Foundation, HEFN Steering Committee  
Heeten Kalan, New World Foundation, HEFN Steering Committee  
Sophia Kolehmainen, Cedar Tree Foundation, HEFN Steering Committee  
Michael Lerner, Jenifer Altman Foundation, HEFN Chair Emeritus  
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