OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PRODUCED BY AN OUTSIDE PARTY AND SUBMITTED TO THE OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT.

December 3, 2008

Dear President-elect Obama:

As leaders of organizations dedicated to the support and advancement of women and girls and their families, we congratulate you on your historic victory and the promise it holds – not only for our shared values but the nation as a whole. The gender gap was alive and thriving in this year's election; we believe the unmistakable support of women voters has given you a tremendous opportunity to make women's issues a clear priority of your administration. This is a cause that we know you support, and we stand ready to work with you to advance our mutual agenda.

We are looking forward to working with you and your administration to achieve historic levels of appointments of talented, visionary women at all levels of the executive branch. We were pleased to see the nominations of Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State, Janet Napolitano for Secretary of Homeland Security, and Susan Rice for Ambassador to the United Nations. Moreover, we appreciate the appointments of highly-qualified women to key administration positions, including, most recently, Melody Barnes, Christina Romer and Ellen Moran. With these and other pending appointments and nominations, you have shown your willingness to name women to important posts. We applaud and thank you for these efforts.

We urge you to strengthen these efforts, and extend them even further both with regard to the makeup of your cabinet and other political appointments. Women have made tremendous strides in becoming top decision makers in both public service and private enterprise. Even so, few women in American history have been given the honor of serving their country in a president's cabinet. As the aforementioned nominees demonstrate, there are many qualified and accomplished women willing and able to lead our executive departments and agencies; your administration would be wise to grant more of them such an opportunity. **We urge you to appoint more women than your predecessors to your Cabinet.**

As you know, achieving gender equity goes beyond appointing women to government offices; it extends to putting policies and regulations in place which confront problems head-on and generate long-lasting solutions. Toward that end, **we further ask you to restore and strengthen all offices that in past administrations have played a fundamental role in protecting and advancing women's issues and opportunities. For example, the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach and the President's Interagency Council on Women** once served as proactive liaisons to the women's community, promoted interagency collaboration to address critical issues, and furthered policy initiatives to advance women's progress. Reestablishing and strengthening these and other offices would send a strong signal and provide a platform for the development and implementation of new ideas.

It has taken centuries of hard work and sustained hope to get women where we are today, but much more work needs to be done. Lost ground must be regained, and new doors must be opened. You have called on Americans for bold solutions to our challenges. We have heard your call, and stand ready to work with you and your administration to advance equity for women and girls.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Hallman, CAE, Executive Director
American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Kathleen C. Rigsby, President
Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education (AGELE)

OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PRODUCED BY AN OUTSIDE PARTY AND SUBMITTED TO THE OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT.

Phoebe S. Leboy, President
Association for Women in Science

Wayne Shields, President
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Eleanor Hinton Hoytt, President and CEO
Black Women's Health Imperative

Deborah L. Frett, CEO
BPW/USA and BPW Foundation

Barbara Ratner, President
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Irma D. Herrera, Executive Director
Equal Rights Advocates

Patricia Willis, Chair
Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association

Eleanor Smeal, President
Feminist Majority

Irene Natividad, President
Global Summit of Women

Barbara Ferris, President
International Women's Democracy Center

Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO
MANA, A National Latina Organization

David Sadker, President
Myra Sadker Foundation

Mimi Lufkin, CEO
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Education Foundation

Bonnie Coffey, President
National Association of Commissions for Women

Susan Wysocki, President and CEO
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

Kate Kendell, Executive Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights

Michele Leber, Chair
National Committee on Pay Equity

OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PRODUCED BY AN OUTSIDE PARTY AND SUBMITTED TO THE OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT.

Susan Scanlan, Chair
National Council of Women's Organizations

Kim A. Gandy, President
National Organization for Women

Debra L. Ness, President
National Partnership for Women & Families

Sarah Harder, President
National Peace Foundation

Nancy Duff Campbell and Marcia D. Greenberger, Co-Presidents
National Women's Law Center

Lulu Flores, President
National Women's Political Caucus

Julie Burton, Executive Director
Project Kid Smart

Susannah Wellford Shakow, President
Running Start

Virginia C. Connolly, President
Society of Women Engineers

Marty Langelan, President
Turning Anger into Change

Evelyn Murphy, President
The WAGE Project, Inc

Joan A. Kuriansky, Executive Director
Wider Opportunities for Women

Nan Grogan Orrock, President
Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL)

Jessica Grounds, President
Women Under Forty Political Action Committee

JoAnne Lyons Wooten, Interim President and CEO
Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment

Susan Shaer, Executive Director
Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund

Karen Jacob, Chair
Women's Action for New Directions, Inc.

OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PRODUCED BY AN OUTSIDE PARTY AND SUBMITTED TO THE OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT.

Cindy Hounsell, President
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement

Laura Roskos and Nancy Munger, Co-Presidents
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section

Susan Scanlan, President
Women's Research & Education Institute

Margot Dorfman, CEO
U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

Lorraine Cole, Ph.D., CEO
YWCA USA

CC: Valerie Jarrett

The Honorable John Podesta

Peter Rouse

Karen Kornbluh