

# The CoalBlue Project Letter to the President

## It's Not Just About Coal

... it's anything but

- **It's not just about coal, coal jobs, and coal communities ... It's about preserving affordable electricity and reliable electricity across America as we transition to cleaner energy.** In pursuing clean energy and a sustainable energy future, we cannot lose sight of the very real importance of energy affordability and energy reliability. Nothing would (a) more quickly reverse the forward momentum of the climate movement, (b) place an unacceptable economic burden on core Democratic constituencies, and (c) put Democratic officeholders everywhere in America at electoral risk than having electric rates rise rapidly and/or the lights go out anywhere in America as a result of well-intentioned, but poorly designed climate policies.
- **It's not about denying the reality of the climate challenge ... It's about recognizing the realities of global energy supply and demand, and responding to the climate challenge accordingly.** Coal and other fossil fuels are going to be with us for decades to come, in both the U.S. and around the world. If we are to have any hope or chance of significantly reducing global CO2 emissions and meeting the climate/carbon challenge, we must learn to manage the carbon in coal, not think that we can wish it away. There is no path to a clean, low-carbon world that does not include clean, low-carbon coal (and natural gas).
- **It's not about asking climate advocates or coal advocates to compromise and each give a little ... It's about getting both to recognize their common interest in advocating for the most robust program of energy innovation imaginable.** It's about bringing them together in support of all three legs of the climate stool: (1) increased energy efficiency, (2) greater use of non-fossil fuels (renewables and nuclear), and (3) the accelerated development and broad deployment of essential carbon-mitigating technologies for coal and other fossil fuels.
- **It's not about going slow on climate ... It's about getting the climate train on track and then opening up the throttle.** Neither the interests of our planet nor our party are served by the climate skeptics or the climate dreamers (who think we can simply wish coal/fossil fuels away). We cannot allow either to or hold us back from doing what is right, what is necessary, and what is best – what is both *good policy* and *good politics*.
- **It's not about defending the status quo or clinging to the past ... It's about looking ahead, thinking outside the box, and winning the future, on both the policy and political fronts.** Unfettered by outdated conventional wisdoms, the CoalBlue Project is, as reflected in its letter to the President, all about bringing together seemingly disparate interests to create the bigger tent necessary to carry the day and achieve winning outcomes.

To read the text of the CoalBlue-POTUS letter, go to <http://coalblue.org/action/>.

For more information about the CoalBlue Project, visit [www.coalblue.org](http://www.coalblue.org).

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