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August 3, 2010

To: All Member, U.S. Senate

RE: "Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act of 2010"

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Property Rights Alliance, I am writing to express concern over the "Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act of 2010," sponsored by Senator Reid. **The bill would create a perpetual and unnecessary revenue source for the Land & Water Conservation Fund; increasing the likelihood of spending abuse and greatly expanding the regulatory authority of the federal government.**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created in 1964 to be the principal source of funding for the federal government to acquire new land. Currently, the \$900 million annual allocation to the fund must be appropriated by Congress. Senator Reid's bill would allow agencies to use LWCF funds "without further appropriation." Making expenditures without Congressional approval increases the chance of spending abuse and smacks in the face the promise of accountability made by the Administration.

Furthermore, as the LWCF's purpose is to fund land purchases, the negative implications on property rights are immense. The federal government already owns over 650 million acres of land, with over five million acres designated as "vacant." The bill would infringe on property rights by denying individuals the chance to create new businesses and hire employees. Increasing land purchases is not only unnecessary; it will further hamper our economic recovery.

With the National Park Service dealing with an estimated \$9.6 billion maintenance backlog, the federal government simply can't afford to buy additional land; especially when it can't care for the land that it already owns.

Property Rights Alliance encourages all Senators to oppose the "Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act of 2010." As a matter of principle, property rights should be protected by granting citizens the right to utilize and prosper from the land. Legislation should never attempt to seize land from the public and restrict its use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelsey Zahourek". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kelsey Zahourek
Executive Director