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DOT EARTH

Nine Billion People. One Planet.



July 23, 2009, 11:53 am

Senate Pressed to Aid Obama on Energy Education

By [Andrew C. Revkin](#)



More than 100 schools, student groups and nonprofit organizations have signed [a letter pressing the Senate](#) to provide the money President Obama has sought for his [Re-Energize program](#), which is aimed at building the [intellectual capacity to transform](#) the country's energy system. The letter, drafted by the Breakthrough Institute and [sent to Senate offices](#) this week, comes after the education program was cut to zero by a Senate committee from Mr. Obama's \$115 million request. In its markup, a House committee cut the request to \$7 million. (See the [ScienceInsider blog](#) for more.) The money would flow to a variety of educational programs from elementary through post-graduate levels.

The Breakthrough group, created by [Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus](#), has been [sharply attacked by some energy-climate campaigners](#) for rejecting the cap-and-trade approach to curbing greenhouse-gas emissions and focusing on the need for greatly boosted energy technology research and development. But, joining with the [Association of American Universities](#), it rounded up a long list of institutions for this particular letter, which you can see listed below.

Before the letter was sent, I'd asked the White House about the cuts by lawmakers. Kenneth Baer, the associate director for communications and strategic planning at the Office of Management and Budget, sent this reply: "The appropriations process is ongoing, and we look forward to working with Congress to make sure there is the needed funding to prepare our students for the jobs of the growing clean energy sector."

Here's the list of signatories:

Alliance for Climate Education
The Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies
American Geological Institute
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
Apollo Alliance
Arizona State University
Appalachian State University PSM in Engineering Physics- Instrumentation and Automation
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Babson College
Babson College Energy and Environmental Club
Baker College
Berkeley Energy Resources Collaborative
Binghamton University- State University of New York
Bloomsburg University
Boston University Energy Club
Breakthrough Institute
CSTEM Teacher and Student Support Services
The California State University
California State University-Bakersfield
California State University-Channel Islands
California State University-Chico
California State University- East Bay
California State University-Fresno
California State University-Fresno PSM Programs in Biotechnology and Water Resources
California State University-San Bernardino
California State University-Stanislaus
California State University-Stanislaus PSM Program in Genetic Counseling
Center for Genomic Sciences- Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
Clemson University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
Duke University
EAST Initiative
emPOWER, Brown University Student Energy Group
Energy Action Coalition
Engineers Without Borders- USA
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
Focus the Nation
Georgia Institute of Technology
Global Exchange
Harvard College Environmental Action Committee
IEEE-USA
LearnOnLine, Inc.

Maritime Academy Charter High School
Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition
Middle Tennessee State University
Missouri Student Environmental Coalition
Morgan State University
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA)
National Science Teachers Association
New Mexico State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Oregon State University PSM Programs
Pathways into Science
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Renewable Northwest Project
Rice University PSM Program
Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition
Roosevelt Institution
San Diego State University PSM Program in Biotechnology
San Jose State University
Sierra Student Coalition
South Dakota State University
SPIE- The International Society for Optics and Photonics
State University of New York PSM Programs
STEM School Administrators Association
Student Environmental Action Coalition
SustainU.S., the Youth Network for Sustainable Development
Syracuse University
University of Arizona
University at Buffalo SUNY PSM Program
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California- Irvine
University of California- Riverside
University of California- San Diego
University of California- Santa Barbara
University of California- Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Connecticut PSM Program
University of the District of Columbia

University of Houston System
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign PSM Program
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland- University College PSM Program in Environmental Management
University of Massachusetts PSM Programs
University of Michigan
University of Nevada- Las Vegas
University of North Carolina- Charlotte
University of Northern Iowa PSM Program
University of Oregon
University of Southern California
University of South Carolina Biotechnology PSM Program
University of Texas-El Paso Bioinformatics PSM Program
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
By 2050 or so, the world population is expected to reach nine billion, essentially adding two Chinas to the number of people alive today. Those billions will be seeking food, water and other resources on a planet where, scientists say, humans are already shaping climate and the web of life. In Dot Earth, reporter Andrew C. Revkin examines efforts to balance human affairs with the planet's limits. Supported in part by a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Mr. Revkin tracks relevant news from suburbia to

Siberia, and conducts an interactive exploration of trends and ideas with readers and experts.



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New Options Needed



Access to cheap energy underpins modern societies. Finding enough to fuel industrialized economies and pull developing countries out of poverty without overheating the climate is a central challenge of the 21st century.

- [Africa's Energy Gap](#)

- [The Power of Green](#)
- [The Energy Challenge series](#)
- [How to Spark an Energy Quest](#)

Climate

The Arctic in Transition



Enshrined in history as an untouchable frontier, the Arctic is being transformed by significant warming, a rising thirst for oil and gas, and international tussles over shipping routes and seabed resources.

- [The Big Melt series](#)
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Society

Slow Drips, Hard Knocks



Human advancement can be aided by curbing everyday losses like the millions of avoidable deaths from indoor smoke and tainted water, and by increasing resilience in the face of predictable calamities like earthquakes and drought.

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Biology

Life, Wild and Managed



Earth's venter of millions of plant and animal species is a vital resource that will need careful tending as human populations and their demands for land, protein and fuels grow.

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Slide Show




[A Planet in Flux](#)

Andrew C. Revkin began exploring the human impact on the environment nearly 30 years ago. An early stop was Papeete, Tahiti. This narrated slide show describes his extensive travels.

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