

**Alliance 90/The Greens
The German Green Party
Local Chapter Washington DC**

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Washington DC, April 12, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

With Japan's nuclear tragedy fresh in our collective conscience, now is the time to act. Nuclear power is dangerous and expensive and puts an unbearable burden on the people affected by it – a point made clear by the tragedy at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The damages to the Japanese and global economy are yet to unfold. But already now we see how international shipping routes have to be changed, how power outages challenge Japanese public and business, and how large areas of land have to be evacuated. And these are just a few and only the first of the potential impacts unfolding. The heavily damaged reactors are spreading radioactive waste into the environment. The situation is far from being under control. Contamination released in Japan will likely travel all over the world.

Mr. President, you have stood up for renewable energy. The First Lady has made children's health her signature cause. We urge you, as both leaders and parents, to help ensure a healthier future for our kids by advocating for energy from clean, renewable sources and leave nuclear power behind.

Responses around the world to Fukushima differ from country to country. The German government has reacted swiftly understanding, that nuclear power security threats have to be reevaluated in the face of the Fukushima catastrophe. It shut down seven of Germany's nuclear power plants immediately for a security reassessment. There is strong political momentum to phase out nuclear power completely within this decade.

Nuclear power currently provides 23% of the German power mix in comparison to the U.S. where nuclear provides 20%. Renewable energies, smarter grids, and efficiency technologies are available to replace nuclear power. With these technologies we can meet our needs for affordable energy while at the same time cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In the next decade, Germany can showcase how an economy can be highly competitive, low-carbon, and nuclear free. Renewable energies will be the backbone of this green economy. If we had the winds of Texas and the sunshine of California, we would even move faster. As in the past, this technological shift will create jobs and business opportunities for German companies selling their goods in services in and outside Europe.

As this nuclear tragedy happened in one of the most developed economies, it is now time for the United States, too, to make the necessary move away from this dangerous and expensive source of power. Nuclear reactors in the U.S. are vulnerable to natural disasters, mechanical failures, human errors, and loss of critical electric power supplies. More than 108 million Americans live within 50 miles of a nuclear reactor in the United States. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of radiation and it is them who will have to cope with the unsolved problem of nuclear waste over the next generations.

We have the opportunity today, that our children and grandchildren could look back on us as the generation which started a real renaissance in renewable energy and efficiency. Renewable and energy efficient technologies can help restore political and economic stability, create jobs and save the planet. The concern of the people of Germany about their environment, their health, and the commitment to a more secure energy system have made the election of the first Green Minister President on the state level possible. We encourage you and the American people to be our ally in building a sustainable future for our citizens. We invite you to fight with us for a green economy which is low-carbon and nuclear free.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hochhuth, Arne Jungjohann, Sonja Regler

Board of the Local Chapter Washington DC
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