

Testimony of Mike Reagan to the
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Thank you Congressman Markey and the Special Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming,

My name is Mike Reagan. I am here to represent CALPIRG Students as the Statewide Board Chair, but also this generation of students who are calling on Congress to act on Global Warming.

To solve Global Warming, this country will need to make the hard decisions and pass strong legislation that will change our relationship to energy, consumption, and sustainability. So far, Congress has not done this. As a student leader, I fail to see my Congressional Representatives leading the necessary charge. I am not alone in taking this issue into my own hands. Students across the country are not waiting for leadership from Congress, we are engaging our fellow students to fight Global Warming.

Our generation has been lost in the shuffle of the political game. We understand the devastating effects of Global Warming. We know how Global Warming will affect the world, especially members of our own generation. But in this culture of blockbuster news focused on grabbing the short attention spans of Americans, many of the youth generation are unsure of the solutions that exist to the problem. Furthermore, coming from a generation that generally distrusts Government more than any other in America, many young people are not looking to Congress or the White House to solve the growing problems of Global Warming.

As a student leader, I have decided to work where I have the greatest impact: building a base of engaged students who focus on policy solutions. On my campus, and in my community, I have worked to get students politically active. To do this, I have educated my fellow students on the potential solutions for Global Warming and what can be done on campus and in our own private lives. Through actively educating, recruiting, and organizing, I engage students into the political discourse on Global Warming. I work to win the hearts and minds of my fellow students and mobilize our generation to act.

On campus I have worked with others and tried many different methods. To educate our fellow students we have worked to make our campuses sustainable. On my campus, we organized students' voices to urge the administration to make more sustainable buildings on campus, including a student funded building to be LEED Platinum standard. We have passed out 5,000 energy efficient light-bulbs and educated students on the value of conservation. CALPIRG led efforts in UC Santa Cruz for a student referendum to run the University on 100% renewable energy. At UC Berkeley and UC Santa Barbara we created collective student funds to spur sustainable projects on campus. UC San Diego generates a full megawatt of energy from Solar Power. We have educated thousands of students in California on the solutions to Global Warming.

I have also been working working to mobilize students to be politically active in leading the fight against Global Warming. For the past three summers, I have campaigned to urge our Statewide and National political leaders to make the hard decisions. In 2005, I raised over \$6,000 for Environment California on a campaign to pass the Million Solar Roofs Bill (SB 1). When the Million Solar Roofs bill eventually passed into California law, it became the largest investment of solar power in the world: \$3.2 Billion for solar power rebates. In the summer of 2006, I raised over \$8,000 for Environment California to pass the Global Warming Solutions Bill (AB 32). This was the biggest step this nation has taken to fight Global Warming so far. Young people across the state organized our communities and passed the Nation's first Statewide cap on Global Warming pollution. This previous summer, I directed a campaign office and recruited, trained, and managed young activists in an effort to raise over \$170,000 to pass HR 969, the Renewable Electricity Standard. This last fall, I organized a voter registration drive on my campus and registered over 1500 students to vote for the midterm elections. Across the state we registered over 20,000. And on college campuses across the country we have built support for over 300 campuses to sign on to the American Colleges and Universities Presidential Climate Commitment, a pursuit towards climate neutrality for our institutions of higher education, the hotbed of social awareness and change in America.

On our campuses, we are seeing the solutions and beginning to act. Now, as nearly 5,000 students from across the country gather together to call for change, I urge Congress to act against Global Warming. I am here to represent my generation and to relay the message that students and young people are repeating, it is time for action.

Thank you Chairman Markey and the Committee for allowing me to speak.