

July 17, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House

CC: Secretary of State John Kerry  
US Trade Representative Michael Froman  
U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker  
Chairman and President, US Export-Import Bank, Fred P. Hochberg  
First Vice President and Vice Chair, US Export-Import Bank, Wanda Felton  
Member, Board of Directors, US Export-Import Bank, Sean Mulvaney  
Member, Board of Directors, US Export-Import Bank, Patricia M. Loui  
Member, Board of Directors, US Export-Import Bank, Larry Walther

President Obama,

We write to you out of concern that the landmark commitment to end U.S. financing for coal plants abroad, that you included in your Climate Action Plan, may be undermined by an imminent vote of the U.S. Export-Import Bank Board. Just three weeks after you made it clear that financing for most coal plants abroad is no longer acceptable, the U.S. Export-Import Bank Board will vote this Thursday on whether the climate impact of a heavily polluting coal plant abroad is acceptable, allowing the federal agency to consider providing public financing for the project.

The Thai Binh II coal plant in the Red River Delta in Northern Vietnam is a 1200 MW project that would use outmoded subcritical boiler technology, a violation of your Climate Action Plan and the Export-Import Bank's environment policy. As such, this dirty coal plant will emit unacceptable air pollution that will worsen climate disruption and poison local communities.

Moreover, this U.S. agency's Directors will cast this vote on whether or not to adopt this important component of your climate action plan behind closed doors and in the absence of *any* publicly available environmental assessment documentation on the climate impacts of the coal plant project. Neither the project's required Environmental Impact Assessment nor the Enhanced Due Diligence Memorandum for High Carbon Intensity Projects has been publicly disclosed. Thus, the Export-Import Bank Board of Directors may privately derail your vital public policy commitment.

The Export-Import Bank's decision this week is the first crucial test case for your Climate Action Plan. We urge you to intervene now to protect the Climate Action Plan directive to end U.S. financing for coal plants abroad; the Board of the Export-Import Bank should reject funding for the Thai Binh II coal plant.

Sincerely,

Bill Snape  
Senior Counsel  
Center for Biological Diversity

Niranjali Amerasinghe  
Director, Climate Change Program  
Center for International Environmental Law

Ben Schreiber  
Acting Climate and Energy Program Director  
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Kyle Ash  
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Greenpeace USA

Doug Norlen  
Policy Director  
Pacific Environment