

March 20, 2013



Brian Moynihan President & CEO  
Bank of America  
100 Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

RE: PHASE OUT COAL FINANCE

Dear Mr. Moynihan,

We write to you today to urge Bank of America to phase out its support for the US coal industry and take the lead in financing the transition to renewable energy in the US.

Coal combustion is a major source of global greenhouse gas emissions and the US is the world's second largest coal producer. Coal-fired energy generation is also responsible for pollutants that damage cardiovascular and respiratory health and threaten healthy child development. The health and environmental impacts of coal are immense: A 2011 Harvard School of Public Health study found that coal mining and combustion in the US imposes between a third to over a half of a trillion dollars in externalized environmental and health costs on the US public each year. The authors concluded that accounting for the externalized costs of coal "conservatively doubles to triples the price of electricity from coal per kWh generated, making wind, solar, and other forms of non-fossil fuel power generation, along with investments in efficiency and electricity conservation methods, economically competitive."<sup>1</sup>

Today, Bank of America is the largest financier of the US coal industry. Your bank has significant financial relationships with major coal mining companies, utilities with emissions-intensive coal-fired power plant fleets, and companies that are developing coal export terminals that, if built, will transport millions of tons of coal overseas each year.

We urge you to demonstrate Bank of America's leadership on climate and public health by adopting a meaningful policy restricting investments in the coal industry. Bank of America's policy should include:

- Phasing out financing for companies pursuing new coal-fired power plants and life-extending retrofits of existing coal-fired power plants.
- Phasing out financing for companies engaged in mountaintop removal coal mining.
- Phasing out financing for companies pursuing new coal export infrastructure.
- A commitment to shift Bank of America's energy financing to support clean, renewable power generation that is less threatening to our health and the environment.

Signatories to this letter include long-term investors of diversified portfolios whose holdings in many respects are representative of the global economy. As a result, investors have a clear financial interest in the enduring health of capital markets and the economy. Coal combustion and its links to negative environmental and health impacts present real risks to investors and bolster the argument for stronger protections of public health and welfare. Reducing our reliance on coal is critical to long-term economic growth, and in turn to the prospects of companies in investor portfolios.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, we look forward to seeing Bank of America lead the US's transition to a clean energy future.

Signed,

**Frank Ackerman**, Senior Economist, Synapse Energy Economics  
**Julian Agyeman**, Chair, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University

**Rabbi Katy Z. Allen**, Ma'yan Tikvah, Wayland, Massachusetts

**Craig Altemos**, Executive Director, Better Future Project

**Christopher Bosso**, Associate Dean, School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University

**Phil Brown**, Director, Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute, Northeastern University

**Charles Carroll**, Principal, New Outlook Financial

**Catherine Cartier**, President and Board Chair, Progressive Asset Management, Inc.

**Rt. Rev. Roy F. (Bud) Cederholm Jr.**, Assisting Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

**Noam Chomsky**, Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus), Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Richard Clapp**, Professor, Boston University School of Public Health

**Gary Cohen**, President, Health Care Without Harm

**Chuck Collins**, Senior Scholar, Institute for Policy Studies

**Farhad Ebrahimi**, Founder, Chorus Foundation

**Daniel Faber**, Director, Environmental Justice Research Collaborative, Northeastern University

**Rian Fried**, President, Clean Yield Asset Management

**Marshall Ganz**, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Anne Golden**, Treasurer, Threshold Foundation

**Julie N.W. Goodridge**, President and CEO, NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.

**Julie Fox Gorte**, Senior Vice President for Sustainable Living, Pax World Management LLC

**Sonia Hamel**, Climate Protection Consultant, Hamel Environmental Consulting

**Susan S. Hansen**, President, Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc.

**Rebecca Henderson**, Co-Director, Business and Environment Initiative, Harvard University Business School

**Andrew Hoffman**, Professor of Sustainable Enterprise and Director of Erb Institute, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

**Linda Jacobs**, Linda Jacobs Financial Service

**Sut Jhally**, Executive Director, Media Education Foundation and Professor of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Adam M. Kanzer**, Esq., Managing Director & General Counsel, Domini Social Investments LLC

**Rabbi Margie Klein**, Founder, Moishe Kavod Jewish Social Justice House

**Jonas Kron**, Esq., Director of Shareholder Advocacy & Corporate Engagement, Trillium Asset Management, LLC

**Peter W. Krull**, President & Founder, Krull & Company

**Sonia Kowal**, Director of Socially Responsible Investing, Zevin Asset Management, LLC

**Michael Lazarus**, Senior Scientist, Stockholm Environment Institute – US

**Lawrence Lessig**, Roy L. Furman Professor of Law and Leadership and Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard Law School

**Sanford Lewis**, Counsel, Investor Environmental Health Network

**Penn Loh**, Professor of the Practice, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University

**Cindy Luppi**, New England Director, Clean Water Action

**Patti Lynn**, Deputy Director, Corporate Accountability International

**Peter Martin**, Executive Director, The Sierra Club Foundation

**Bob Massie**, President and CEO, New Economics Institute

**Bill McKibben**, President and Co-Founder, 350.org

**Jim Norton**, Jim and Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation

**Mark Orlovski**, Executive Director, Sustainable Endowments Institute

**Richard Parker**, Professor, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Mark Regier**, Director of Stewardship Investing, Everence Financial and the Praxis Mutual Funds

**Juliette Rooney-Varga**, Director, Climate Change Initiative, University of Massachusetts Lowell

**Ronald Sandler**, Director, Ethics Institute, Northeastern University

**Tedd Saunders**, CSO, The Saunders Hotel Group

**Steven J. Schueth**, President, First Affirmative Financial Network

**Rev. Fred Small**, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Cambridge

**Fran Teplitz**, Director, Social Investing & Policy, Green America

<sup>1</sup> Paul R. Epstein, Jonathan J. Buonocore, Kevin Eckerle, Michael Hendryx, Benjamin M. Stout III, Richard Heinberg, Richard W. Clapp, Beverly May, Nancy L. Reinhart, Melissa M. Ahern, Samir K. Doshi, and Leslie Glus-trom. 2011. Full cost accounting for the life cycle of coal in "Eco- logical Economics Reviews." Robert Costanza, Karin Limburg & Ida Kubiszewski, Eds. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 1219: 73-98.