

# U.S. Olympians Call for Action on Climate Change

## An Open Letter to the U.S. Senate

As members of the U.S. ski team that competed in this year's winter Olympic games, we are writing to urge immediate action on climate change, which threatens the future of our sport and the economic foundation of communities across this nation.

We can attest to the impact climate change is having on America's mountains. Firsthand, we are seeing shorter seasons, declining snowpack and earlier snowmelt. According to a major government report released last year, some areas in the Northwest are already seeing a 60 percent decline in snowpack. By the end of the century, the snow season in many areas of the U.S., especially the Northeast, could be cut in half if action isn't taken to cut global warming pollution.

At stake is more than the future of skiing. Many communities across the country depend on winter sports and related tourism to support their local economies. Furthermore, the water supplies of millions of Americans depend on snowpacks. Climate change impacts on snow therefore threaten not just winter recreational activities, but the economic well-being of many Americans.

In January, athletes from around the world converged in Vancouver, united in the common purpose of spirited competition. We urge you to find that same spirit of unity and set aside partisanship to do what is in the best interests of our country: pass a comprehensive climate and energy bill this year.

The future of our sport, the winter Olympics, and communities across America rests in your hands.

Sincerely,



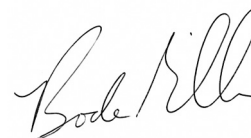
**HANNAH KEARNEY**  
Gold Medal  
Vancouver 2010



**TED LIGETY**  
Gold Medal  
Torino 2006



**JULIA MANCUSO**  
Gold Medal  
Torino 2006  
Silver Medals (2)  
Vancouver 2010



**BODE MILLER**  
Gold Medal  
Vancouver 2010  
Silver Medal  
Vancouver 2010  
Silver Medals (2)  
Salt Lake City 2002  
Bronze Medal  
Vancouver 2010