



Rockefeller  
Brothers Fund

Philanthropy for an Interdependent World

October 18, 2007

Dear,

Policy makers in Washington, DC worry that climate action may cost too much, hurt the economy, eliminate jobs, and become politically unpopular. Yet many of those who are currently working to reduce emissions inside companies and in state and local governments find they are saving money and fostering economic opportunity and competitiveness.

Real world experiences and lessons suggest that we now have win-win options for climate policy that can minimize economic harm and produce significant benefits by generating increased prosperity and improved quality of life.

This is a difficult message in Washington, where fossil fuel industries and many other voices have been threatening bad economic news about climate action for more than 15 years. As we get closer to actually considering meaningful climate policies by the federal government, such claims of “economic harm and unacceptable cost” will surely intensify.

It will take thoughtful people to help point federal policy makers in the right direction. How do we design climate policies that minimize economic harm and maximize economic gain?

**Please join 30 thoughtful colleagues from state and local government, economic development, public policy, private sector, and academic communities at the Pocantico Conference Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund on November 26-28<sup>th</sup> to consider this vital question.**

Many of us believe that these national economic issues are potentially THE critical stumbling blocks to be overcome in future negotiations about federal policy on climate change. To move forward we will need a more thoughtful debate. Please come help us think through what is already known, what we don't yet understand, what information gaps we need to fill, and how best to present a more thoughtful and environmentally sustainable perspective on these complicated questions of economic development policy and practice.

We look forward to seeing you at Pocantico. For more information on Pocantico please click here.

[www.rbf.org/info/info\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=515345&cat\\_id=1801&parent\\_doc\\_id=472520](http://www.rbf.org/info/info_show.htm?doc_id=515345&cat_id=1801&parent_doc_id=472520)

If you haven't been to Pocantico before, it is about 45 minutes north of New York City by train and is a marvelous place for this kind of thoughtful conversation. Please plan to arrive at Pocantico by 5pm on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. We plan to begin with dinner and framing presentations on the 26<sup>th</sup> and to finish by 3pm on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you can make this important meeting by replying to Lydia Brown at [lbrown@rbf.org](mailto:lbrown@rbf.org).

Please find attached to this email invitation a list of participants and a sheet on logistics that we'd like you to return to Lydia Brown as soon as possible, along with a brief one-paragraph bio that we can share with the other participants. We will send you an agenda and some preparatory reading material soon. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for articles, reports, or other publications that may be useful in exploring these important issues.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Michael Northrop  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Karl Ulrich  
The Wharton School

Marc Weiss  
Global Urban Development