November 2, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500 USA

The Honorable Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of the Republic of India
7, Race Course Road
New Delhi - 110011 India

Re: A Call for Strengthening Cooperation between the United States and India on Climate Change and Clean Energy

Dear President Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh:

We are writing to you in regard to President Barack Obama’s upcoming visit to New Delhi and the Green Partnership that India and the United States initiated during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s visit to Washington, DC a year ago.

Both The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have been strong proponents of increased cooperation between our nations on climate change and clean energy. To this end, TERI and Yale University have organized U.S.-India Energy Partnership Summits this year and last, which NRDC has cosponsored. We want to congratulate both governments for the remarkable progress over the past several months in creating the foundation for a broad range of cooperative research, development and policy endeavors on climate change and clean energy. Carrying this forward would be significant not only for our two nations, but also to the rest of the world.

We encourage both our leaders to commit to strengthening the Green Partnership with the following steps:

1. Both leaders should recognize and reaffirm that climate change poses a threat to the security of both our nations and the international community at large and continue to build U.S.-India cooperation on climate change and energy.

2. A specific time table should be developed for implementation of the new set of interrelated projects which are now in hand, such as the Partnership to Accelerate Clean Energy (PACE) and the Strategic Dialogue on Clean Energy, so that real and measurable progress can be achieved over the next two years and beyond.
3. Both leaders should agree to use sophisticated information and social media technology to make the Green Partnership more effective and accountable. India and the U.S. should create a joint web platform to gather and make accessible information about the diverse elements of the Green Partnership. This would improve coordination both within and between our governments. It would also facilitate the participation of business and civil society and create a public record of the Partnership’s activities and achievements.

4. An institutional arrangement should be established between the two countries for climate adaption measures, including disaster management and implementation of adaptation measures with a focus on water resources management, extreme climate related events, sea level rise and conservation of fragile ecosystems.

5. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has made new investments in transformational energy technologies through its Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The Government of India should consider establishing a similar organizational entity in India with arrangements for cooperation with ARPA-E.

TERI and NRDC will be following your meeting in India with great interest, and we look forward to continuing to work with both governments. We remain prepared to provide any further information or input required by officials of our two countries to strengthen the Green Partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri
Director-General
The Energy and Resources Institute

Frances Beinecke
President
Natural Resources Defense Council