

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Chancellor Holden Thorp  
University of North Carolina  
103 South Building  
Campus Box 9100  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9100

CC: Mr. Tim Toben, Trustee Alston Gardner, Ms. Molly Diggins, Ms. Elinor Benami, Ms. Mary Cooper, Dr. Pete Andrews, Dr. John Cooper, Dr. Jonathan Howes, Dr. David McNelis, Dr. Royce Murray

Dear Chancellor Thorp,

We write to thank you for forming the Energy Task Force to address energy use on campus and to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss campus coal use.

Since we launched our campaign at Carolina last fall, it has become increasingly clear that UNC's continued use of coal is destroying the environment and jeopardizing public health.

While we commend your efforts to avoid purchasing mountaintop removal mined coal, it appears, from the investigation that the environmental organization Appalachian Voices has performed, that one company UNC purchases from may have been playing semantics with the University. Additionally, Appalachian Voices has shown that at least one other company UNC currently purchases coal from is causing coal dust pollution that is harming the health of local residents.

At the local level, community members have become increasingly vocal about toxic air pollution that the cogeneration plant produces. As I am sure you are aware, citizens recently petitioned the Chapel Hill Town Council to support the coal-free effort at UNC, noting that "medical research has yielded compelling evidence that toxic chemicals, including mercury, arsenic, lead, and particulate matter, emitted by coal-fired plants can adversely affect human health."

Furthermore, while we praise your efforts to minimize the environmental impact of UNC's coal ash, we are concerned about the possibility that UNC's coal ash is indeed contributing to the pollution of groundwater.

In a recent ranking of green schools in the southeast by Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine, UNC was ranked fifth in the region behind Duke University and North Carolina State University. The leading reason for this ranking is that UNC continues to burn dirty coal. We would like to see UNC maintain its status as a beacon of sustainability in the southeast by making a commitment to eliminate coal use on campus as soon as possible, by 2015 at the latest.

We respectfully request to meet with you to address these concerns and show the overwhelming support we have gathered for moving Carolina beyond coal.

Sincerely,

#### Coordinators of the Coal-Free UNC Campaign

Stewart Boss  
Class of 2013  
Co-Chair, Sierra Student Coalition

Taylor Timmerman  
Class of 2012  
Co-Chair, Sierra Student Coalition

Ann Green  
Class of 2012  
Treasurer, Sierra Student Coalition

Angela Ju  
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Evan Baker  
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Robert Edmiston  
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Andrew Paschal  
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Chris Uy  
Class of 2012

Caroline Nagle  
Class of 2013

Denise Dubick  
Class of 2013

Katie Hill  
Class of 2013

Wyatt Harper  
Class of 2013

Laura Stevens  
Organizer  
Sierra Club Coal-Free UNC Campaign