



Green Growth Comments and Quotes

September 2014

Gov. John Kitzhaber (D-OR)

“America’s states and localities are on the front lines of solving climate change. As a governor, every day I am keenly focused on the needs of communities to rebuild an aging infrastructure, create good jobs, increase regional competitiveness, and become more resilient in the face of disaster. New financing approaches for state governments to rebuild crumbling infrastructure and retrofit our homes, offices, and energy grids for clean energy are essential tools in the fight to save the environment. The ideas outlined in “Green Growth” offer an important way forward to use the climate crisis as an opportunity to build a new generation of family supporting jobs and rebuild America’s communities as engines of innovation and investment.”

Richard Freeman, Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics at Harvard University and Director of the National Bureau of Economic Research/Sloan Science Engineering Workforce Projects

“‘Green Growth’ makes the case that the United States can substantially reduce energy use and expand renewable energy at a reasonable cost with existing technologies. We will greatly benefit from but do not need major scientific and technological breakthroughs to kick-start a new green economy. With sluggish job recovery and low interest rates, ‘Green Growth’s’ \$200 billion green investment strategy could push forward an era of sustained prosperity and full employment. Lights, camera, action.”

Jared Bernstein, Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and former Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to Vice President Joseph Biden

“CAP and PERI have come with a plan for sustainable growth that’s as ambitious as it is essential. Those in the market for a carefully crafted plan to aggressively fight climate change while stimulating employment in green sectors need look no further. True, that market does not exist in today’s terribly cramped environmental politics. But those of us who care about a sustainable future must create it, and this is an excellent plan to rally around.”

Sen. Timothy E. Wirth (D-CO), Vice Chairman of the Board,
United Nations Foundation

“We cannot keep kicking the can down the road on action to address climate change. The opportunity to create new businesses and jobs is waiting if we commit to a clean energy future. CAP and PERI are exactly right in calling for a new wave of investment in advanced energy technology and higher-performing buildings, as well as dramatically more efficient infrastructure.”

Jeff Holzschuh, Chairman, International Securities, Morgan Stanley

“Climate change provides new risks and new challenges for investors. This paper offers insights that can help create a new generation of cleaner, more efficient, and smarter technologies that spark powerful new financial opportunities. Whether within energy markets, capital markets, or in real estate, the growing awareness of a changing climate must inform the work of bankers, asset managers, and financial institutions to use this challenge as a driver of economic growth and innovation.”

Bill McKibben, President and Co-Founder 350.org

“As this report shows, environmental common sense is also economic common sense: The shift to a clean energy economy can happen fast enough to put a dent in climate change, but only if we get going with real focus and determination!”

Ron Blackwell, Former Chief Economist, UNITE and AFL-CIO

“‘Green Growth’ offers a compelling program to address climate change, while fostering economic prosperity and advancing social justice. We can only hope that leaders in the labor and environmental communities can find common cause around such a program and that political leaders will move with urgency to address our joint challenges of environmental sustainability and social justice. When they do, they will turn to ‘Green Growth’ for inspiration and instruction.”

Jigar Shah, Founder of SunEdison and Special Manager, Clean Feet Investors

“The resource productivity revolution just makes financial sense. The “Green Growth” study is not just a “blue sky” effort, but a roadmap for how we unlock the greatest wealth creation opportunity of the century—climate wealth.”

Nancy Folbre, Professor Emerita, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

“This path-breaking analysis decisively undermines the bogus claim that the United States can’t afford to speed up its transition toward environmentally sound energy policies. On the contrary, it shows that a serious, sustained effort to reduce carbon emissions could revitalize private investment, boost employment, and reduce economic inequality. Most working people in the United States would substantially benefit from the PERI-CAP plan to protect the environmental security of future generations.”

Gary Hattem, Managing Director, Global Social Finance, Deutsche Bank

“The ‘Green Growth’ report is an important contribution to the conversation about the respective roles of the private and public sectors in meeting the challenges of climate change in ways that have the potential to create jobs and a more dynamic economy.”

Mindy Luber, Executive Director, CERES

“This report provides a clear—and achievable—roadmap for investments that are needed to stabilize our climate while creating millions of good-paying jobs in the United States. Shifting significant capital away from fossil fuels toward cost-effective low-carbon technologies is an urgent priority, and by doing so the economy, the environment and workers will benefit.”

Kate Gordon, Vice President, Next Generation

“Climate change is risky for business, workers, and the U.S. economy. The PERI-CAP report, ‘Green Growth,’ clearly lays out the stark choice faced by America’s businesses and citizens between an energy path that will bake serious climate impacts into our national economy and an alternate path that will spur investment into more competitive industries and anchor long-term economic growth. This paper does a great job of laying out both the risks of inaction and the potential rewards of positive change.”

Reed Hundt, CEO, Coalition for Green Capital, former FCC Head for Clinton

“Every government needs public and private investment to move their economies to the new clean power platform. State-chartered green banks should provide the public investment; private sector provides private investment. Joined up, the total will make energy cheap and clean—and save the world from catastrophic, irreversible climate change. In the 1990s, the United States moved to a new knowledge platform by investing about \$200 billion a year in new communications technology. So we changed the world. This report shows that at the same rate of investment in clean energy technology today, we can now move to a new power platform—and so we will save the world.”

[Michael Brower, President and CEO, American Council On Renewable Energy](#)

“‘Green Growth,’ the latest research from the Center for American Progress and UMass, demonstrates the immediate need to transition to a low-carbon economy to protect the environmental security, economic security, and national security of the United States. Viability is not an issue: Clean energy investments offer a triple bottom line return that is creating American jobs today and will continue to boost our economy well into the future. Thus, the time to make a serious commitment to clean energy investment and deployment is not tomorrow, is not next year—it’s now.”

[Leo W. Gerard, International President, United Steelworkers](#)

“America is at an economic and environmental crossroads. Thousands of communities across the country have been devastated by the closure of industrial facilities and the loss of family-supporting jobs. At the same time, we’ve also witnessed communities devastated by weather-related storms and events. We need to confront these issues head-on as a nation and drive a national plan that will not only create and maintain manufacturing and construction jobs, but modernize and rebuild our critical energy, water, and transportation systems. The Center for American Progress/University of Massachusetts Amherst report, ‘Green Growth,’ offers a path forward for investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and next generation smart grids and transportation networks to build a new wave of jobs, help make our communities safer, and help achieve our nation’s environmental goals.”

[Mark Fulton, Founder, Energy Transition Advisors](#)

“This comprehensive study of aligning the whole U.S. economy with a 2 degree world shows how important further policy action based on the Obama administration’s efforts through the EPA is going to be. Energy efficiency remains vital. The good news is that the outcome is positive for employment.”

[Rhone Resch, President, Solar Energy Industries Association](#)

“The conclusions of this report are consistent with what we’ve known for years: the United States has a huge opportunity to cut pollution and create jobs through investment in clean energy technologies, including solar, the fastest-growing energy source in America. Rapid deployment of clean energy will support new jobs and investment in the U.S. economy while helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.”

[Tom Kiernan, CEO of American Wind Energy Association](#)

“Investments in wind power alone have averaged \$15 billion and already reduce greenhouse gases by 127 million short tons each year. Adding all the other clean energy solutions together, as this study does, shows what the American economy can achieve. Far more workers and consumers can benefit as we keep scaling up these climate solutions.”