May 29, 2013

Anne L. Kelly
Co-Director, Policy Program & Director,
Business for Innovative Climate & Energy Policy (BICEP)
Ceres
99 Chauncy Street, 6th Fl.
Boston, MA 02111

Re: Support of the Climate Declaration

Dear BICEP:

We are writing to express our support for the Climate Declaration launched last week by BICEP and your member companies. One hundred and fifteen (115) ski resorts across twenty-four states support the Declaration and stand behind your strong message to policy makers to pass meaningful energy and climate legislation now. Ski areas across the country are concerned about the issue of climate change and its impacts on rising sea levels, wildlife habitat, the health of our forests, and truly our way of life. It is obvious that the success of ski business operations depends greatly on climate. Resorts have made tremendous efforts to raise awareness of the issue of climate change with our guests and with policy makers over the past decade. We have also made great strides in our operations to reduce carbon emissions.

Two years ago, the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) initiated the “Climate Challenge,” a voluntary program dedicated to helping participating ski areas reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reap other benefits in their operations, such as reducing costs of energy use. Resorts who take the Challenge are required to complete a climate inventory on their resort operations, set a target for greenhouse gas reduction, and implement a new program or project annually to meet the reduction goal. Examples of some of the actions taken so far include lighting retrofits, development of on-site renewable energy including solar and wind and investment in high efficiency snowmaking equipment. Today, we have 20 resorts that have taken the Challenge, including Alta Ski Area (UT), Arapahoe Basin (CO), Beaver Valley Ski Club (ON), Boreal Mountain (CA), Canyons Resort (UT), Copper Mountain (CO), Giants Ridge (MN), Gorgoza Park (UT), Grand Targhee (WY), Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY), Jiminy Peak (MA), Killington Resort (VT), Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort (NV), Mt. Bachelor (OR), Mt. Hood Meadows (OR), Park City Mountain Resort (UT), Pico Mountain Resort (VT), Soda Springs (CA), Sugarbush (VT), and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort (CO).
Apart from the Climate Challenge, ski areas are developing renewable energy on site through the application of wind, solar, geothermal and micro-hydro technology. Ski areas are applying energy-efficient green building techniques, retrofitting existing facilities to save energy, replacing inefficient compressors in snowmaking operations, using alternative fuels in resort vehicle fleets, implementing anti-idling policies and providing or promoting car pooling or mass transit use by guests and employees. Ski areas are also supporting renewable energy by purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). The ski industry represents a relatively small source of greenhouse gas emissions, however, we are doing our part to set the example and unify all businesses behind the common goal of addressing the long term issue of climate change.

NSAA recently submitted testimony to the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change to encourage action in Washington on the issue of climate change. Over the past decade, ski areas have supported a variety of energy and climate proposals in Congress, as well as proposed climate policies from federal agencies. We have advocated support for cap and trade, extending the Investment Tax Credit and the Production Tax Credit, adopting renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and cleaner fuels and cleaner vehicle emissions requirements, and EPA’s establishment of protective carbon emission standards for new power plants.

All of the ski areas listed below applaud your action in launching the Declaration and are pleased to support it. If there is any additional information we can provide from the ski industry, our contact person is Geraldine Link ((720) 963-4205 or glink@nsaa.org) at NSAA.

Best Regards,
ALASKA
Alyeska Resort

CALIFORNIA
Alpine Meadows
Bear Valley
Boreal Mountain Resort
Dodge Ridge
Granlibakken Ski Area
Homewood Mountain Resort
Kirkwood Mountain Resort
Mammoth
Mountain High
Mt. Shasta Ski Park
Northstar California
Royal Gorge
Sierra-at-Tahoe
Soda Springs Ski Area
Squaw Valley
Sugar Bowl

COLORADO
Arapahoe Basin
Aspen Highlands
Aspen Mountain
Beaver Creek
Breckenridge
Buttermilk
Copper
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Durango Mountain Resort
Echo Mountain
Keystone
Monarch
Powderhorn
Silverton
Snowmass
Sol Vista at Granby Ranch
Steamboat Ski & Resort
Telluride Ski & Golf Resort
Vail Mountain
Winter Park

IDAHO
Lookout Pass
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Tamarack Resort

ILLINOIS
Chestnut Mountain Resort

INDIANA
Perfect North Slopes

MAINE
Camden Snow Bowl
Mt. Abram
Shawnee Peak Ski Area

MASSACHUSETTS
Catamount Ski Area
Jiminy Peak
Ski Butternut
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

MICHIGAN
Crystal Mountain

MINNESOTA
Lutsen Mountains
Spirit Mountain
Welch Village

MONTANA
Bridger Bowl
Moonlight Basin

NEVADA
Heavenly Mountain Resort
Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort
Mt. Rose

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Attitash
Cranmore Mountain Resort
Gunstock Mountain Resort
Loon Mountain
Mount Sunapee
Ragged Mountain Resort
Waterville Valley

NEW MEXICO
Pajarito Mountain Ski Area
Taos Ski Valley

NEW YORK
Bristol Mountain
Gore Mountain
Greek Peak Mountain Resort
Holiday Valley Resort
Holimont Ski Area
Hunter Mountain
Mt. Peter Ski Area
Whiteface
Windham Mountain

OREGON
Anthony Lakes
Cooper Spur Mountain Resort
Mt. Ashland Ski Area
Mt. Bachelor
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort
Timberline Lodge & Ski Area
PENNSYLVANIA
Camelback Mountain Resort
Elk Mountain
Liberty Mountain Resort
Roundtop Mountain Resort
Whitetail Resort

UTAH
Alta Ski Area
Canyons Resort
Deer Crest Private Trails
Deer Valley
Park City Mountain Resort

VERMONT
Bromley
Burke Mountain
Killington
Okemo Mountain Resort
Middlebury College Snow Bowl
Pico Mountain
Smugglers’ Notch Resort
Stowe
Stratton
Sugarbush

VIRGINIA
The Homestead Ski Area
Massanutten Ski Resort
Wintergreen Resort

WEST VIRGINIA
Snowshoe

WASHINGTON
49 Degrees North Mountain Resort
Crystal Mountain
Mission Ridge
Stevens Pass
Summit-at-Snoqualmie

WISCONSIN
Cascade Mountain
Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park

WYOMING
Grand Targhee Resort
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort