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**Clinton Global Initiative University 2008 Meeting
Working Session: Energy & Climate Change
Discussion and Commitments
Clinton Global Initiative University
March 15, 2008**

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G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Well, I hate to break up the conversation, I know there's a lot of interesting discussions that are underway, but you've submitted over a hundred questions, we've got 12 minutes now, 11 minutes and 40 seconds, that's about seven seconds per question. We're clearly not going to be able to answer all of those, but we've looked at many of the questions that you have submitted and are going to try and pick out a few and respond to those and perhaps, one of the important things, at least, what we think is important, is to be able to dispel some myths; So, Jigar, if you want to start and address a couple of these and tell us what the truth really is.

JIGAR SHAH: Sure, I'm going to try the ESPN approach with the 15 seconds per answer thing.

I'll start with just two questions that relate to SunEdison. There's a question down here, around, do you ever work with companies that are only interested in the PR aspects of solar power? We did. Today, all of our customers are signing with us, not because it's green, but because it's the only way that they have to lock in electricity rates for the next 25 years, because the sun's free, et cetera. So, it's a hedge for them now.

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The other question is; how can companies overcome the initial high cost of going green? That's, sort of, what we do. We own and operate solar systems as well as energy efficiency products for the customers, so we pay all the up-front costs and we sign a contract for 20 years with them to buy the energy or whatever it is from us over the next 20 years.

Dispelling mythism, so how can the U.S. incentivize China to leapfrog dirty industrialization? I think the first think it can do is leapfrog its own dirty industrialization.

[Laughing]

So, I would strongly caution everybody in the room, these types of statements are extraordinarily inflammatory and I work a lot with China and India. And India, especially, just feels like, for the last 50 years you guys created this problem and now you're telling us we can't own a car because you guys created this problem. It's a big deal and it gets to be inflammatory. The other thing is what kinds of things can be done to make alternative energy affordable for everybody? It is affordable for everybody now. The thing with alternative energies, again, this is a paradigm shift, right, so it leads to another one of the questions about what governments can do, is that the government has to recognize that building a coal power plant in the middle of nowhere, that creates economic justice issues and then building a \$1.8 billion transmission

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line to get the power from there to the city of choice is way more expensive than just putting solar on all of the houses in the ninth ward. So, that's just a paradigm shift to make it more affordable.

Then the last question, that I think was addressed to me was, well, that I can answer is, how can community college and high schools contribute to the creation of green-power jobs? So what [inaudible] is doing now is we're partnering with community colleges around the country because of the 455,000 job years, I was telling you about. Where we work with people to say, if you put this solar technicians course in or whatever else, we'll guarantee that we'll hire 20 percent of the people that graduate from that course. So, there's a lot of things that we can do green-collared jobs and I'd love for you guys to all help with getting your local technical or vocational schools or community colleges involved.

MALE SPEAKER: Great, Peggy, lots of questions about China. I think, Jigar, pointed out an important issue here. This is not China's problem, it's our problem, it's a problem that we have created. But, lot's of questions about China, here.

PEGGY LIU: Well, it's we all win or we all lose, it's not U.S. or China or U.S. and India. So, I thought I'd address several of the questions by talking a little bit about the

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programs that we are working on in China and where we're having students actively involved this summer. So, we've chosen all of our programs to be near-term, within three years and in high impact. And what we typically do is try to work with channels of key decision makers. So, one of the programs is a mayoral training course with a mayoral training center in Beijing. This is a mandatory course for all mayors in China and, again, there's at least 650 of these people and then deputy mayors. All of them are trying to learn how to be mayors, but also trying to green themselves and reach the 11th five year plan targets. So, what we're doing is we're bringing city level best practices to them and then matching them to vendors of products and services that can help them implement locally. This requires a lot of research, a lot of translation, stuff that students are going to help us with, this summer.

Something on the fun side, Shanghai Media Group has asked us to do six documentaries for them. This is the equivalent of China's, An Inconvenient Truth, which really took off there, so, this is an opportunity to do a lot of research, a lot of fun, movie development, what are the human interest stories, what are the environmental stories. We have a smart grid program where we're trying to drive a national interest to plan smart grid. So, basically invest in a better grid early on. Jigar, talked about transmission, two-thirds of all power

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is lost between the time that you create it to the time that you use it to cool your beer in the fridge, two-thirds of that. So, being able to do research on what are the best practices world-wide on smart grid and then bring them to the government leaders that we're working with in China and educate them about what the key early decisions are that they can make now, so as not to preempt the option for a smart grid later is really, really impactful. We have a Hollywood producer who's interested in doing, *We Are the World*, for green at the Olympics he's raising money for that. Now, if he is successful, [inaudible] will be the sole beneficiary of this and we're going to have to work with celebrities and get them onboard and make sure that the music is good and all that type of stuff. So, there's a lot of opportunities for students using basic research skills and communication skills, as I said before, create access to knowledge and access to products and services for these Chinese decision makers.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Great, Nikki, big ideas, we talked a lot about energy, how do we harness the energy in this room?

NIKKI HENDERSON: Harnessing the energy in this room. So, students, I saw a question on there about student. I'm still a student, I'm getting a Master's Degree in African American Studies and the energy action coalition actually has a

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phone call, talking about what can students do about green-collar jobs. Because the idea sounds brilliant, but a lot of college students come to me and say, but, I'm in college to get a white-collar job. I want to be able to support my family. I don't want to come in entry-level. That's why I'm getting a degree. So, all these things are flying around, right? But one major thing about students, over the years, especially since the '60s, is that when the government has been a little slow, if the Senate's not quite with us yet when it comes to passing certain policies or the House and the Senate disagree and we have exactly five years before enough gas and smoke and pollution gets into the air to where we'll all have asthma, you can get six thousand students to come to D.C. and say, hey, can you do something about this? And that's the bottom vision of what students can do. We have the extraordinary ability to converge en masse, to push political agendas, to make all kinds of different generations listen to what's most important. So, I would encourage all of you to really keep up with what's coming out in academia, what's coming out in research, what's coming out in economics, in politics, so that when something needs to happen and the government or whatever system's that are in place are moving a little slow, you can converge and you can make things happen.

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G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Great, so Christine, how do we pay for all this?

CHRISTINE EIBS SINGER: Well, I want to tackle the question about what types of financing mechanisms are needed and just use the work that I've been doing for the past 15 years as an example. E + Co is a non-profit organization, but we're an investment company, we invest in these clean-energy businesses and we're also doing that capacity-building, that business training. That requires a blending of public and private capital and it really fosters the need for public, private partnerships between government agencies, the World Bank, the bi-lateral organizations and local partners, local NGO partners and local businesses.

I think one of the things that's interesting as you explore this space is there really is a whole new avenue of hybrid business models out there, it's really the third way of accomplishing some significant development in energy objectives and climate change objectives in the developing world. And the hybrid model is a new way of blending public and private capital to achieve things like the triple bottom line or a double bottom line, if you're just focusing on the job generation and the quality of life improvements. So, the financing mechanisms are some creativity, it's really looking

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at ways that you can blend them to provide market-rate returns but have those social and environmental impacts, as well.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Great, P.J., we haven't answered all hundred questions but we tried to address some of the important ones. P.J.'s going to try to summarize what you've been doing for the past 30 minutes while we were out of the room.

P.J.: Yes, and again, thanks to the team has been working incredibly hard to do all this for you. I'll give Bud a copy of these, as well, so he can take a look. But, a lot of themes and a lot of really amazing ideas, as well, in terms of themes that came out, a lot of you thought that campuses ought to sign the President's climate commitment to drive their own emissions [inaudible].

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Raise your hand if your university signed the climate commitment. I was going to say, maybe we should do it the other way, but I don't want to embarrass anyone.

P.J.: And if you don't know, you can go to Presidentsclimatecommitment.org and find out and also, get advice about how best to create a campaign on your campus. Schools can generate intra-disciplinary programs that link economic development to sustainability programs. Universities ought to offer more incentives for students to live more

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sustainably, a lot of you though that it's important to find creative ways to finance the creation of green universities that take the lead on these issues that universities ought to involve communities in their sustainability projects.

Creating incentives designed specifically for local contacts that integrate cultural considerations. Carpools don't mean much to non-commuter schools; one of the comments that was made. In terms of gems and specific ideas that you all had to make a difference, someone suggested that fraternities and sororities ought to take a leadership role in showing students how to go green. Combining education on energy efficiency in low-income communities with low-interest loans to buy Energy Star products, students ought to run for political office to create policy change. [Applause]

Universities can implement live-feed energy meters at high-use locations, like dorms and publicize the results in real-time. And there's a great commitment by one of you that I think we're going to talk of a little bit later. At Temple, for example, one month's of savings of energy was given back to students on campus, so creating incentives there for people to get engaged. Tufts brought faculty together to break down silos across different issue areas and incorporate sustainability in 175 of its courses. And I believe, that's what we've got, in terms of the big themes, but we're also going to collate these and, I

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think, publish them on the CGI website, as well. So, thank you for the great, rich conversation.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: We talked a little bit about myths and I think the themes that you've identified have been terrific and we'll try to address those. But before we do that, I think I want to try to dispel one myth, and that is that there's a belief that going green somehow has costs associated with it. But when you really think about it, it's not costs, it's opportunities. I'll use my own university, for example, we have, at the University of Colorado at Boulder, have a bus pass program that we joined or developed with the city. Last year had over three million rides on the bus, where students get a free bus pass that takes them anywhere in Boulder, from Boulder to Denver to the airport. That saves us an enormous amount of money, as a university, in terms of parking. One of the big surprises in life, I think, is how expensive it is to make a parking lot and maintain that parking lot. But things like bus passes, that save parking spaces, that at the same time are very eco-friendly. We've introduced initiatives that have reduced the potable water on the campus by 113 million gallons or 30 percent per square foot, over the past four years, tremendous savings there. Recycling, saves over 18,000 trees a year, 1.6 million BTUs of energy and 8 million gallons of water and over 16,000 tons of carbon, each year, saved through these

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activities that the students have actually overtaken and pressed for the themes, comments on the themes, Jigar.

JIGAR SHAH: Well, we didn't talk a lot about transportation here on this panel, and I do want everyone to know that asthma rates, within one mile of a highway in this country, are twice as high as the national average. During the Atlanta Olympics, we saved more money because all of the highways were, basically, shut down during Atlanta Olympics. They had 75 percent less people going to emergency rooms for asthma-related attacks. So, when we talk about being green and these kinds of things actually saving money. They actually save real money. They're not just a pie in the sky, not auditable or not tangible savings.

PEGGY LIU: I just wanted to refer everybody to a book called *Collapse*, by Jared Diamond, the author of *Gun, Germs and Steel*, if you haven't read it yet, please do.

NIKKI HENDERSON: I actually had an African American studies professor, who had us read *Guns, Germs and Steal* and had us compare that to the African American experience, it was very interesting, I'll tell you that. Something that I saw, when looking at the themes was different Universities doing different things, I saw a reference to Tufts and I saw a reference to another university and I think that's a really

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good thing to think about when it comes to what students can do, as well.

Because this country looks very different if you travel from one end of it to another, you'll see a bunch of different people, you'll hear a bunch of different accents. You'll see a bunch of different cities. Universities follow the same pattern, there're historically black colleges and universities, there's public, there's private, there's community college, all the different president's commitments, students went about getting the different president's commitments in a bunch of different ways.

And I think looking at the different types of activism that go on on all the different campuses are a perfect example of how something can look different and yet the same. And part of sustainability is looking at what the ecosystem of the area is and coming from within to establish something unique to that ecosystem that works, instead of laying a general pattern over something, when all of the areas look very different. And that can apply to people, as well, so when looking at something that you can do, take encouragement from the fact that we all have a lot of different things to learn from, but also understand that even universities and colleges are still very fragmented in a lot of different ways and we do need to be working together a little more.

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G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Closing comments, Christine.

CHRISTINE EIBS SINGER: The closing comment I'd like to add, really building on what Nikki said, is when you think about how to enter this space, recall that you can get into this space from the environment side and deal exclusively on green energy and climate change. You can come in through the development side and think about how climate change is going to impact the billions of people out there who are not going to be able to adapt and mitigate to rising seawaters and hotter temperatures and droughts. Or you can get in it through the finance side and really look at, what does it mean to create business opportunities in this space, whether it's through GreenTech or Cleantech. But the reality is, as a professional interested in this space, you really have to understand all three sides. You have to be able to think about development, think about finance and think about environment, and that truly is what is going to enable you all, as the next generation, to create a sustainable future.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: And Peggy.

PEGGY LIU: Sorry, one last comment. I think awareness is still something that you can easily help with, so in China, one of our partners brought in something called the Clean Air Challenge. It's a curriculum for middle school and high school students and they translated it into Chinese and when they did,

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they said, you have to have a sulfur dioxide component because China is the largest emitter of sulfur dioxide, so, fine, they did that. Then they said, you know, we don't actually have an ozone problem, so you can take away the whole ozone chapter there. And they were [inaudible] so they brought these ozone testing strips, which then immediately turned black and the teachers were like, wow, how come nobody told us there was an ozone problem? This was like a really basic level of awareness that doesn't exist in China. The other day, a guy named Taylor Francis, emailed me and then gave me a call yesterday. This is, at 14, he's 15 now, he was the youngest trained person, trained personally by Al Gore, to give the *Inconvenient Truth* spiel and he's coming to China for a week. And he's going to be talking to schools and government officials and corporations, so, even at 15, and I know you guys are much older than that. He's making a huge wave. So, you guys can do a lot just by spreading the word.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Listen, this is a special group. I know all of you made commitments, applied and were selected to come here. What we'd like to do, at this particular point in time, is just recognize a couple of the commitments that have been made by individuals and I'd like to ask these folks to please come up and we'll recognize you.

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The first is Gary Shue [misspelled?], Gary is a, come on up here, Gary. Gary is a graduate student at MIT and he's developed a program for bicycles on the MIT campus and it's, what's it called Gary?

GARY SHUE: Sure, so this kind of stemmed out of a course project where we studied bicycle sharing it's kind of like car sharing where you have stations and you are a member and you pick up a bike and you can use it to go around campus and then you drop it off and, hopefully, it encourages more people to get around campus using bicycles that walking or taking a shuttle or driving.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Great. Congratulations. How many of your campuses have a program like that that shares bicycles? You might want to touch base with Gary and give him some suggestions and some thoughts about them. Second commitment that I'd like to recognize is Jennifer Bower from William Patterson University, Jennifer. Congratulations. Jennifer has developed a way to cut down on the carbon emissions and the carbon footprint at William Patterson University by lobbying for it to become a central hub for the New Jersey Transit and introducing carpooling program. Jennifer, you want to say a few words?

JENNIFER BOWER: Since New Jersey's one of the most densely populated states, it's become readily apparent that a

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lot of students are choosing to commute to schools. Just at William Patterson we have over fifty percent of our student population commuting from their regular home, every day. And a lot of them live in the same areas and we have so many cars that are circling the parking lot for fifteen minutes looking for a parking spot because we don't have the facilities or the ability to continue accepting so many cars and so many people are choosing that lifestyle. We have a great university program that started only about a year ago, when I was a freshman, and we started competing to become the central hub for New Jersey Transit, which is our primary public transportation system and I'm very pleased to announce that we found out, just last month, while I was doing the application, that we won that competition.

Part of this commitment is going to be raising awareness about this new achievement, adding two additional lines to reach commuter students and bring them to campus every day. And I'm doing at least two publicity awareness campaigns every semester, incorporating different events in our new student center. So, I hope it will be successful.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Congratulations. And the third commitment we'd like to recognize is President Dan Fogel from the University of Vermont. President Fogel.

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President Fogel has developed a plan for an interdisciplinary center to focus graduate and undergraduate research and education on issues, green issues and to try to help the University of Vermont, which may be one of the few places on earth that's greener than Boulder Colorado.

DAN FOGEL: Well, thank you Bud. We are working very hard to break down the silos and tap all of the creative energy of our professional staff, our students and our faculty to, not only, conduct research and education, but also to apply integrated solutions that require multi-disciplinary understandings of the challenges we've been discussing here today, so, we're very excited about the work we're doing and about this meeting.

G.P. BUD PETERSON, PH.D.: Congratulations. Well, I think that brings us to the close of the panel. Again, I want to thank all the panelists, I want to thank all of you for participating. We've talked, and often talk about the challenges that these issues present to us and I hope that what we've been able to do is to move the discussion a little bit away from the challenges and towards the opportunities that the new industries that will be created through your efforts and your ideas and your innovative and creative approaches to solving these problems, but to identify what those opportunities are and pursue those. So, with that, I think

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we're going to get instructions on what happens next from on high.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, the working session is now concluded, your meet-ups will begin at twelve thirty pm. Box lunches are available outside this room, so please get your lunch and then find your meet-up room in one of the session rooms. The west region will meet in this area in the faculty dining room. The northwest region will be in Kendall Cram Hall located next door to us on this level. The south region will meet in the ballroom, also located on this floor, down the hall and around the corner. The Midwest region will meet in the Rathskeller which is located in the basement. And the international region will meet on the Rosenberg Mezzanine, located towards the lobby, in between the first and second floors. Please proceed to your meet-up sessions now.

[END RECORDING]