



October 30, 2011

Mr. Bill McKibben
C/O Times Books
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10010

Dear Mr. McKibben:

The Climate Change Leadership Institute (CCLI) is a New Mexico based and civil society oriented non-profit organization promoting personal and civic responsibility on behalf of addressing human induced climate change. Among our initiatives (which you may learn more about at www.takeresponsibility.us) we give out a series of annual seed grants and leadership awards to promote excellence and outstanding achievement in the field of climate action, clean energy and conservation. This year we have unanimously decided to present the **Climate Courage Award**, our most significant and national honor, to you for your brave and exemplary civil disobedience against the Tar Sands Pipeline in support of US climate leadership.

In order for the transformation of America to take shape on behalf of widespread sustainable energy, unparalleled conservation and genuine climate restoration, we believe it is vital for our civil society to deploy the renewable power of direct action. By going to jail along with a thousand other citizens to protest the permitting of the Tar Sands Pipeline you have not only gravitated public attention around this important issue but you have also seminally demonstrated to our citizenry that there is an age-old, morally consistent and strategically effective way for people to have real power over the seemingly entrenched economic and political interests holding back progress: and that is civil disobedience and disciplined direct action on behalf of the American climate leadership movement. To essentially protect life on earth and prevent the contradictory demise of our climate, it is – as you have been teaching so poignantly over the course of your lifetime – incumbent on us, the generations of Americans living today, to put ourselves on the line and make a brave personal and collective commitment to the transcendence of sustainability in our time.

Thank you very much for your exemplary leadership and courage. If you would be so kind as to send a response letter sharing your thoughts about receiving this award and indicating to what end you will use the prize money it comes with we would be grateful and post the letter on our website for posterity.

Most sincerely yours,

Robb Hirsch
Founder and Executive Director