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400 Groups Join Nationwide Call for Action on Global Warming

Hundreds of Organizations Call for Quick, Meaningful Federal Action

Saint Paul, Minnesota - Over 400 groups from around the nation, including more than twenty in Minnesota, have come together today to call for a federal limit on global warming pollution that guarantees pollution reductions from today's levels and promotes clean and efficient energy sources. The release of the Citizens' Climate Policy Statement of Principles comes as Congress returns to Washington, home from a summer vacation during which much of the nation suffered a dizzying heat wave and wildfires tore through western forests and towns.

The most recent scientific studies prove that global warming is here now and is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts. By acting quickly, and decisively, many of the worst damages of global warming can be stopped.

"It is time to use America's technological know-how to reduce pollution and build a stronger economy by leading the world in the creation of new, clean energy," said Christopher R. Cox, Minnesota spokesman for the National Environmental Trust. "But without a clear federal policy, we just won't see the aggressive innovation and investment in new technology and clean energy that we need."

A wide variety of organizations, covering the entire spectrum of concern in Minnesota, have signed onto the letter, including Minnesota Republicans for Environmental Protection, Clean Water Action, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, as well as several Minnesota mayors and polar explorer Will Steger. State and local groups illustrated the broad base of support for power plant clean up with endorsements from labor unions, people of faith, small businesses, senior citizens, state legislators, educators and many others. Nationally, 17 health, environmental and conservation groups endorsed the statement, including the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resource Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and the League of Women Voters.

"It is clear that global warming is already having a profound effect in Minnesota and costing citizens in terms of health and money," said J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director of Fresh Energy. "The drying up of precious wetlands, heat waves and changes in forests in the pristine Boundary Waters Region – all of which are worsened by the warming of the planet – have forced Minnesotans to realize that global warming is an urgent problem that has serious consequences if unaddressed."

The statement sets out basic principles for global warming policy that stop the worst effects of global warming. These include beginning in the next ten years to reduce global warming pollution, ensuring reductions of 60-80% by 2050 and promotion of clean and efficient energy sources to meet demand reliably and affordably. The growing evidence of harm to public health, our economy and our environment, as well as common sense, demands that a global warming policy be based on the most up-to-date and accurate science says is needed.

Polar Explorer Will Steger endorses requirements for reductions on emissions on a set timetable because, "I have been eyewitness to global warming impacts in both the Arctic and Antarctica, and I know that we need to reduce our global warming emissions, and soon, to prevent the worse damages."

To download the complete list of groups that have endorsed the statement of principles, click on the link under Related Documents below. You will need [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view this file.

Related Documents: Complete list of groups: www.cleartheair.org/principles