ACTION ALERT

DATE: March 14, 2011
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP Supports U.S. Government’s Efforts To Curb Greenhouse Gases

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE “CLEAN AIR ACT”, WORKS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND ECONOMY

THE ISSUE:

The Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended and strengthened in 1990, is a comprehensive federal response to air pollution. Under the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets limits on certain air pollutants, including setting limits on how much pollution can be in the air anywhere in the United States. This helps to ensure basic health and environmental protection from air pollution for all Americans. The Clean Air Act also gives the EPA the authority to limit emissions of air pollutants coming from sources like chemical plants, utilities, and steel mills.

Under the authority granted to the EPA by the Clean Air Act, in the fall of 2009 the EPA announced that as of January, 2011, new or substantially renovated major stationary sources of air pollution – such as power plants or refineries – would be required to use the best technology available to reduce harmful emissions, including “greenhouse gases” which are responsible for climate change. It is estimated that if successful these reductions will help slow global warming, improve Americans’ health and create new jobs. In fact, according to study released in 2010 by the Small Business Majority, between the years of 2010 and 2015, the capital investments in pollution controls required by EPA to implement these new rules and new generation will create an estimated 1.46 million jobs, or almost 3000,000 year-around jobs per year.

Efforts to slow or stop the effects of global warming are especially important to low-income and racial and ethnic minority Americans as we disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. Manifestations of climate change such as storms, floods, and climate variability have a much more serious impact on African-Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities economically, socially and through our health and well-being. Hurricane Katrina, and its aftermath, is but one example of how the results of climate change can have a disparate and often tragic impact on communities of color.

In Congress, there are at least eight bills intended to roll back or limit the EPA’s ability to reduce greenhouse emissions. One bill, by Congressman Fred Upton (MI) (H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011) was recently approved of by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and will likely come before the full House in the very near future. H.R. 910 would prohibit the EPA from limiting greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

THE NAACP OPPOSES H.R. 910 AND ANY OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD LIMIT OR ELIMINATE THE EPA’S ABILITY TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD LIMIT OR BLOCK THE EPA’S ABILITY TO REDUCE THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators’/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)
  U.S. Senate
  Washington, D.C. 20510
  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
  The Honorable (name of Representative)
  U.S. House of Representatives
  Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ **Send a Fax**
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.
  To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

• If successful the reduction of greenhouse gases will help slow global warming, improve Americans’ health and create new jobs.

• Manifestations of climate change such as storms, floods, and climate variability have a much more serious impact on African-Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities economically, socially and through our health and well-being.

• The NAACP opposes legislation which would limit or block the EPA’s ability to reduce greenhouse gases.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
The Honorable ___________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE EPA’S ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Senator / Representative ______________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to oppose and vote against initiatives to block or limit the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce greenhouse gases under the authority of the Clean Air Act.

For more than 40 years, the EPA has used the authority granted to it by the Clean Air Act to protect our health and our environment. EPA actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are therefore appropriate, and should in fact be supported. If successful the reduction of greenhouse gases will help slow global warming, improve Americans’ health and create new jobs.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is especially important to racial and ethnic minorities, as we are disproportionately affected by the negative consequences of global warming socially, economically, and through our health and well-being. One look no further than Hurricane Katrina and its tragic aftermath to see that African Americans and other communities of color are disproportionately affected by severe weather and other negative consequences of global warming.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my concerns. I look forward to hearing from you to learn of what you are doing to address climate change and what more I can do to help curb these dangerous emissions.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)