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BlueGreen Alliance Statement on Climate and Clean Energy Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 22, 2010) After Senate leaders today announced that they would delay action on comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation, the BlueGreen Alliance released the following statement from Executive Director David Foster:

“Americans need jobs and they need them now. Comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation will spark the creation and preservation of millions of jobs, jumpstart whole new industries, and establish the U.S. as a global leader in the production of clean energy technologies.

“As China speeds ahead in the race for clean energy, the opportunity to create millions of clean energy jobs in America is stalled due to obstruction by Senate Republicans. America has been put on the sidelines as the rest of the world leads the transition to a clean energy economy and reaps the jobs that come with it — jobs that could and should be American jobs.

“We appreciate the efforts of Majority Leader Reid and Senate Democrats to pass legislation that addresses the issues brought to attention by the spill in the Gulf of Mexico and that includes the Home Star program, which will create good jobs and produce energy savings.

“America needs serious action on clean energy, or we risk losing millions of clean energy jobs to our foreign competitors. We urge the Senate to pass comprehensive legislation — including an economy-wide cap on emissions, a federal Renewable Electricity Standard, strong efficiency measures, transportation investments, and worker training — that will position the United States to create and preserve millions of jobs building the clean energy economy.”

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The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations working to expand the number and quality of jobs in the clean energy economy. Launched in 2006, the BlueGreen Alliance now unites eight major U.S. labor unions and two of America's largest environmental organizations - with more than eight and a half million members and supporters - in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy. Visit www.bluegreenalliance.org.