

Comprehensive Energy and Climate Legislation Offers Critical Opportunity to Strengthen America's Communities, Economy and Natural Resources

The following statement is from Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, in expectation of today's release of energy and climate legislation by Sens. John Kerry (D-MA) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT)

ARLINGTON, VA — May 12, 2010 — “[The Nature Conservancy](#) commends Senators Kerry and Lieberman on this serious effort to address the energy and environmental challenges facing America and the world. The broad array of stakeholders engaged in developing this bill shows that the United States can develop a clean energy future that strengthens our economy, conserves our natural resources, combats [climate change](#), and enhances our national security.

“We commend Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman for their leadership and diligent work to find a common-sense workable solution to strengthen our economy, protect our environment and enhance our security. We also thank Senator Lindsey Graham for his extensive contributions to this effort.

“We call on the Senate to seize this moment and work to put in place a solution that can lift America's economy, preserve our natural heritage, and show leadership to the world on the linked challenges of stabilizing the Earth's climate, [protecting our oceans from acidification](#), [keeping the world's forests standing](#), and ensuring our natural resources stay healthy and productive.

“In The Nature Conservancy's [on-the-ground work across the U.S.](#) and around the world, we see firsthand that climate change and the risk it poses to all of us is not a far-off abstraction. Our scientists are already observing the impacts the changing climate is having on the lands and waters we all rely upon for survival. From warmer temperatures that are killing corals in the South Pacific and the fish stocks they support, to [drier soils that are threatening America's farms](#), to [increased flooding that is dislocating entire communities](#), climate change poses grave challenges to Earth's natural systems and to the welfare of people everywhere who depend upon those natural systems for their health and security.

“These challenges are real, and their impacts are being felt today. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to act now to protect our land, our water, our communities and our quality of life.

“The [massive oil spill fouling the Gulf of Mexico](#) is a stark and sobering reminder of all that is at stake – clean water, productive fisheries, vibrant communities, and wildlife – as we take decisive steps toward a clean energy future. We stand ready to work with the Congress, the Administration and other stakeholders to develop [effective climate and energy legislation](#) that will keep our economy strong and our natural systems healthy and productive.”