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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Joint Statement for Earth Day on Healthy Air by Heads of National Environmental and Civil Rights Organizations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 22, 2011) – Earthjustice and Hip Hop Caucus announced that they have partnered on a major initiative to engage communities of color and young people in demanding healthy air for all. Citing the ‘Right to Breathe’ as a call to action for all Americans and an imperative to reach out beyond any single demographic, the Presidents of Earthjustice and the Hip Hop Caucus issued these statements today:

“No child in this country should be suffering from breathing air pollution into their lungs,” said Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus. “A disproportionate number of African Americans are suffering from asthma and other lung diseases caused or exacerbated by toxic air pollution. We are extremely enthusiastic about working with Earthjustice on this Earth Day and beyond because we know that the interests of our earth and the interests of its people are one in the same.”

"Clean air should be a right for all Americans," said Earthjustice President Trip Van Noppen. "Toxic air pollution from industrial sources like power plants, cement kilns and incinerators kill thousands of people every year and cost our nation billions of dollars in lost days at work and hospitalizations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a plan that will cut toxic air pollution from power plants, saving an estimated 17,000 lives and up to \$140 billion each year. We are proud to partner with the Hip Hop Caucus in an effort to raise awareness about this and other important efforts the EPA can and should do to limit toxic air pollution. Cleaning up our air should be a priority for this administration and a right for all Americans to enjoy."

The Hip Hop Caucus and Earthjustice are celebrating Earth Day by honoring 350 African American pacemakers who, through their professions, their passions, and their service, are making our planet a better place to live. The list highlights leaders in media, entertainment, sports, law, politics, education, and business. Some notable honorees include Kanye West, Soledad O'Brien, Ambassador Susan Rice, Bishop Vashti McKenzie and activist Van Jones. The "350 For Earth Day" honoree gallery is available on a mini-site at www.hiphopcaucus.org/earthday.

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About Earthjustice (www.earthjustice.org): is a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth, and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment.

About the Hip Hop Caucus (www.hiphopcaucus.org): The Hip Hop Caucus is a civil and human rights organization for the 21st Century. With nearly 700,000 supporters nationwide, the Hip Hop Caucus uses culture, music, and issues to engage traditionally disenfranchised communities in elections, policymaking, and service projects.