

Statement from 1Sky Campaign Director Gillian Caldwell on 2010 State of the Union Address

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27th, 2010

Contact: Alex Posorske; (415) 420-3370; alex@1sky.org

Takoma Park, MD - 1Sky Campaign Director Gillian Caldwell issued the following statement tonight in response to President Barack Obama's 2010 State of the Union address:

"1Sky was encouraged tonight to see President Obama emphasize once again the need to address the global threat of climate change and recognize the role that transitioning to clean energy and investing in green jobs will have on boosting the ailing American economy.

Our planetary infrastructure cannot stand any additional delay, and our national economy is long past the point where it's acceptable to play politics with an issue that could provide up to 1.7 million new jobs. With the proper investments, we can jumpstart a vibrant new sector of the American economy that will provide stable, career track jobs for American workers. We stand with President Obama and against the corrupt status quo that is clinging to the dinosaur economy of the past at the expense of our health and the planet's well-being. But 1Sky stands for renewable energy – not the massive and inefficient investments President Obama and leaders in Congress have called for in clean coal, offshore drilling and nuclear power that are the apparent price the American people are supposed to pay for votes from the status quo.

That do-nothing status quo has recently been richly personified by Alaska's Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski with her brazen assault on the Clean Air Act and the power it gives us to crack down on the worst dirty coal plants – proven health threats that are polluting our lungs and our atmosphere. Preserving the Clean Air Act is key to promoting a clean energy economy and ensuring the vision that President Obama described this evening will become reality.

The one good thing about Senator Murkowski's Dirty Air Act is that it puts the situation we are confronting in Congress into very stark perspective.

On one side are the supporters of the Clean Air Act -- a key tool to fight dangerous climate change, protect public health, and help us usher in the clean energy economy that will provide millions of stable jobs for years to come.

On the other side is a politician whose only priority appears to be to the utility industry that has already given her almost \$250,000 this election cycle -- and the forces of the failed status quo that selfishly want to block America from moving into the clean energy future alongside the rest of the world. Instead, they want to see us barreling down the same dirty energy path that does nothing but destroy planetary stability, keeps us dependent on foreign energy supplies, and lines the pockets of narrow special interests.

The choice is clear and 1Sky and our 545 allied organizations nationwide will continue to fight to ensure that America chooses renewable energy as the only route towards a healthy people and planet. The true climate battle over the next year will be making sure that the right side wins out and that the vision that President Obama laid out tonight is not derailed by the selfish special interests that repeatedly stand in the way of the change America so desperately needs. As President Obama said, ‘the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy.’”

1Sky is a collaborative national campaign for strong federal action to tackle global climate change and invest in building the clean energy economy of the future. As one of the largest national campaigns in the country, 1Sky combines the force of 545 allied organizations, 190,000 committed climate advocates, 3,400 volunteer Climate Precinct Captains covering more than 390 congressional districts in 50 states, and a team of 37 including 25 organizers in 19 states working to mobilize constituent support.

###