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Education and Training Leaders To Senate: Pass Clean Energy Bill Now

Education, Labor, and Conservation Institutions Head to Capitol Hill to Encourage Senators to Support Comprehensive Jobs Education and Training in Climate Legislation

WASHINGTON (March 3)—Education and training leaders from across the nation today went to Capitol Hill to encourage their Senators to pass comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation that will put a cap on global warming pollution and fund education and training for all sectors of the emerging clean energy economy. One-page advertisements by NWF's sister organization the National Wildlife Federation Action Fund will run in *Roll Call* and *Politico* this week calling for investment in comprehensive education and training for the clean energy economy.

Comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation will transition our nation to clean energy, and has the potential to revitalize our flagging economy, end our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The coalition supporting this effort includes National Wildlife Federation, the Blue Green Alliance, and the Campaign for Environmental Literacy.

“Now is the time to pass climate legislation that invests in new clean energy technology and solutions,” said Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education and Training at National Wildlife Federation. “At the same time we must invest in our nation’s education and training infrastructure — at every level — to ensure Americans are prepared for the new jobs that will be created by the climate bill.”

“Education and training leaders are in Washington this week to urge the Senate to support America’s competitiveness in a global economy by way of curricula, training and programming that incorporates clean energy and sustainability,” continued Coyle.

Leaders head to Capitol Hill this week from the following states: AR, CA, CO, CT, MA, MI, NC, NM, OH, and VA.

“Comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation offers a rare chance to combine our nation’s challenges — energy, economy and climate change — and begin to tackle them together,” said Yvette Pena Lopes, Director of Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Blue Green Alliance. “In addition, our workforce must have all the necessary tools and knowledge to successfully work in the jobs created by the clean energy economy. We can do this by offering training and education for all who want the opportunity.”

“A broad base of citizens and leaders including architects and carpenters, engineers and steelworkers, scientists and solar panel installers, entrepreneurs and small business owners — everyday Americans — will all be needed in order for us to successfully make the transition to a clean energy economy,” said Dr. Jim Elder, Director of the Campaign for Environmental Literacy.

About the National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Visit www.nwf.org for more information.

About the Blue Green Alliance

The Blue Green Alliance is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations. Launched by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club in 2006, the Blue Green Alliance now includes the Communications Workers of America (CWA), Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), the American Federation of Teachers and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU).

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