



## **Senate Climate Bill Jumpstarts Prospects for Action This Year**

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*Prepared remarks of Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of National Wildlife Federation, for Capitol Hill press conference to release the Senate’s American Power Act.*

Washington, DC (May 12, 2010) – “I am here today to thank Senators Kerry and Lieberman for their unwavering leadership and to offer our support in the fight ahead.

“I have spent much of the past two weeks in the Gulf tracking the unrelenting damage of BP’s oil spill. The devastating impacts to fishermen and coastal communities have only just begun. The vast damage to marine life has been beyond the reach of the media’s camera lenses.

“But the price of Congressional paralysis and America’s addiction to oil is no longer hidden. When oil flows into our Gulf waters as fast as our gasoline money flows to the Persian Gulf, it’s past time for a new energy plan for America. Every day the Senate fails to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation, we put our economy, our national security and our environment at greater risk.

“The American Power Act has the one ingredient that is absolutely essential for any energy bill to be worth doing. It holds oil companies and other corporations accountable for doing their fair share to reduce pollution.

“Less pollution means more clean energy and more clean energy jobs. Less pollution means investing in clean energy alternatives and breaking our addiction to oil. And most importantly, less pollution means cleaner air for my grandkids to breathe and a safer, healthier planet for them to inherit.

“I appreciate that Senators Kerry and Lieberman are going to continue working with colleagues to craft this draft bill.

“There is much to be learned from the tragedy in the Gulf, and we must incorporate what we learn as this legislation moves forward. We must protect our coasts, marine life and all of America’s wildlife resources.

“The work on this important bill isn’t finished, but it is vital that the Senate finish its work and deliver a comprehensive climate and clean energy bill this year. We will be mobilizing our 4 million supporters and working with our allies to make sure Senators get the message.”

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*National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.*

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