



MEDIA RELEASE

June 6, 2008

General Media Contact:

Larry Parker, WE ACT, 212-961-1000 x314 (larry@weact.org)

Local Policy Contacts:

(New York City and State)

Cecil Corbin-Mark, WE ACT, 212-961-1000 x303 (cecil@weact.org)

(New Jersey)

Nicky Sheats, New Jersey Environmental Justice Network, 609-777-4351 (newbian8@verizon.net)

(Rural/Indigenous communities)

Tom Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network, 218-444-3209 (ien@igc.org)

(Los Angeles)

Martha Arguello, PSR-LA, 310-260-0073 (arguello@psrla.org)

(Los Angeles suburbs/California statewide)

Angela Johnson Meszaros, California Environmental Rights Alliance, 323-341-5868
(angelajm@envirorights.org)

STATEMENT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

End of Lieberman-Warner Bill Marks Opportunity for Real Action, Without Pollution Trading

The *Environmental Justice Forum on Climate Change*, a coalition of more than 25 local organizations representing Asian-American, Native American, African-American, Latino and indigenous communities throughout the country, believes that today's cloture vote ending debate on S.2191 (the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act) demonstrates the major flaws within the legislation and creates an opportunity for the far more aggressive action which is needed to combat climate change and adequately protect all communities.

Specifically, the Forum opposes any form of pollution trading (also known as cap-and-trade policy) on greenhouse gases. The Forum cannot and will not support policies that create profits for polluters, fail to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas co-pollutants such as fine particulate matter and its precursors (such as nitrous oxide, mercury and sulfur dioxide), and may even allow emissions increases to create pollution hot spots.



Communities of color have long served as the dumping grounds for pollutants, and experiences with pollution trading systems in Europe and elsewhere indicate pollution trading will perpetuate such environmental injustices. It is communities of color that are already bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change in the United States: from indigenous peoples' fishing livelihoods – and way of life – in Alaska to African-Americans on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. They will continue to suffer the most deleterious effects of climate change in America and around the world.

Communities of color and low-income communities may also suffer economic dislocation as we transition away from the carbon economy. We must develop transition plans that protect low-income communities and communities of color, and this must be addressed in any fair solution to the challenge of climate change.

Communities of color must and will be heard from as the debate moves forward, through the Forum nationwide and through other environmental justice groups on the local level.

NOTE TO MEDIA: The local policy contacts listed above are available to give you a targeted, regional perspective on the continuing and predicted effects of climate change in particular communities without strong governmental action. Questions for any regions/communities not listed above may be referred to WE ACT.

Background materials, including the Forum's statement of purpose and a letter sent to all 100 U.S. Senators, are also attached.