

Declaration of U.S. and Canadian Environmental and Conservation Leaders on U.S.-Canada Cooperation on Climate, Energy, and Natural Areas Conservation

On June 2, 2009, leaders from the major U.S. and Canadian environmental and conservation organizations met outside Washington, D.C. to discuss solutions and areas for coordination. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss common climate, energy and natural areas conservation issues recognizing the integration of U.S. and Canadian economies and our mutual need for clean energy job creation.

North American ingenuity can protect our deteriorating atmosphere, grow manufacturing jobs in harnessing wind and solar energy, improve our security by reducing our dependence on oil, minimize climate change's drastic impact on human and natural communities, and protect our fragile natural areas such as the Arctic and the Boreal Forest.

The CEOs of U.S. and Canadian environmental organizations call on the United States and Canada to:

- **Show bold leadership on the world stage, especially leading up to the Copenhagen climate meeting, and within each country through addressing climate change head-on.** Many States, Provinces and Indigenous Peoples are already showing leadership in tackling the threat to our climate system and implementing strong policies to protect it.
- **Incorporate climate science into policy and permitting decisions affecting natural resource management in order to best ensure that wildlife and natural systems can survive in a warming world.**
- **Declare a moratorium on expansion of tar sands development and halt further approval of infrastructure that would lock us into using dirty liquid fuels from sources such as tar sands, oil shale and liquid coal.** Tar sands oil production is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas pollution in Canada and is having a devastating impact on Boreal ecosystems, migratory birds, and air and water quality. Pollution from production of fuels from tar sands, oil shale and liquid coal undermines gains made through fuel efficiency and other mechanisms meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Strengthen investments in renewable energy and in energy efficiency and conservation through creating new clean energy jobs and increasing prosperity through new technologies.** A continental commitment to enhanced energy efficiency and rapid expansion of renewable energy, that minimizes impact on the natural world, is critical. Moreover, energy security is best achieved through investment in the cleanest available energy and through ending our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Declare a moratorium on industrial fishing and development in the Arctic Ocean until there is a comprehensive scientific analysis incorporating the newest information on climate change impacts and until there is a system for integrated, precautionary ecosystem-based management of industrial activities.**

- **Work cooperatively with all Arctic countries and Peoples to curb all sources of pollution of the Arctic, including from land-based sources.**
- **Protect the North American Boreal Forest as one of the world’s last large intact wilderness forests and as a critical global carbon reservoir in its peatlands and forests.**

U.S. Environmental and Conservation Organization Leaders

Margie Alt, Executive Director, Environment America

Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council

Brent Blackwelder, President, Friends of the Earth

John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society

Robert Gruenig, Deputy Executive Director, National Tribal Environmental Council

David Hoskins, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League

Gene Karpinski, President, League of Conservation Voters

Fred Krupp, President, Environmental Defense Fund

Daniel Magraw, President, Center for International Environmental Law

William Meadows, President, The Wilderness Society

Carl Pope, Executive Director, Sierra Club

Phil Radford, Executive Director, Greenpeace

Will Rogers, President, The Trust for Public Land

Rodger Schlickeisen, President, Defenders of Wildlife

Larry Schweiger, President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation

John Seager, Executive Director, Population Connection

Andrew Sharpless, Chief Executive Officer, Oceana

Trip Van Noppen, President, Earthjustice

Rand Wentworth, President, Land Trust Alliance

Peter Wilk, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Rebecca Wodder, President, American Rivers

Canadian Environmental and Conservation Organization Leaders

Rick Bates, Executive Director, Canadian Wildlife Federation

Gerald Butts, President and CEO, WWF-Canada

Bruce Cox, Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada

Stephen Hazell, Executive Director, Sierra Club Canada

Eric Hebert-Daly, National Executive Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Bob Oliver, Executive Director, Pollution Probe

Devon Page, Executive Director, Ecojustice

Marlo Raynolds, Executive Director, Pembina Institute

Sidney Ribaux, Executive Director, Equiterre

Peter Robinson, President, David Suzuki Foundation

Graham Saul, Executive Director, Climate Action Network Canada

Rick Smith, Executive Director, Environmental Defence Canada