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JOINT STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT PROVISIONS OF THE ‘AMERICAN POWER ACT’ (Kerry-Lieberman)

May 13, 2010

We are pleased to see the long-awaited release of the comprehensive climate and energy bill, and we appreciate the tenacity of Senators Kerry and Lieberman in maintaining forward movement on this urgent issue. We especially appreciate that programs for international adaptation and reduced emissions from deforestation are included in the discussion draft.

However, we are deeply disappointed by the overall lack of adequate investments in international action to tackle climate change, including the absence of any program for clean energy promotion.

These investments are squarely in America’s interest. Without these investments, we will miss a critical opportunity to create new American jobs, help avert global instability, foster our national security, and mobilize the global climate action needed to solve a problem that is already affecting communities here in the US and around the world.

Achieving these goals will require significant, predictable and near-term investments for climate resilient solutions in vulnerable countries and communities hardest hit by climate impacts, cost-effective efforts to reduce emissions by protecting tropical forests, and incentives to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies.

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution and cooperation, and these international investments are vital to reaching a global climate agreement.

These investments will also strengthen our national security by limiting the global instability caused by climate impacts. They will protect past development gains and ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable populations, including women, can tackle climate change. They will help build upon a strong international consensus to minimize emissions from tropical deforestation, one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases. And they will help us to build global leadership on clean energy that can create more jobs here in the United States.

Congressional legislation should reflect these realities and ensure the resources to achieve these goals are included.

In the words of President Obama, “any effort that fails to help the poorest nations both adapt to the problems that climate change have already wrought and help them travel a path of clean development simply will not work.”