

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Statement on Protecting the Integrity of the Clean Air Act

Knoxville, Tenn. (March 5, 2010) Earlier this year, Senator Murkowski (R-Alaska) introduced a resolution to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's scientific finding that greenhouse gases are pollutants that endanger public health and to prohibit the use of the Clean Air Act in protecting us from that pollution. More recently, Congressmembers Blackburn (R-Tennessee), Emerson (R-Missouri), Moran (R-Kansas), Peterson (D-Minnesota), Pomeroy (D-North Dakota) and Skelton (D-Missouri) have introduced companion resolutions and complimentary legislation into the House of Representatives and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy offers the following statement.

Statement of Dr. Stephen A. Smith, Executive Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy:

“It is the duty of Congress, and the Environmental Protection Agency as charged by the Clean Air Act, to protect the health and safety of all Americans. We strongly oppose any and all efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act.

“A 2007 Supreme Court decision clearly directed the EPA to consider regulating greenhouse gases as pollutants under the Clean Air Act. After careful scientific review, the agency responded with an endangerment finding, which determined that indeed greenhouse gases are pollutants, a risk to public health and safety and that action is needed.

“We strongly oppose the efforts of Congresswoman Blackburn, Senator Murkowski and their colleagues to promote these ‘Dirty Air Act’ proposals that would overturn a scientifically-based finding and side with the nation’s largest polluters by exempting them from these important provisions of the Clean Air Act.

“Instead dismantling a tried and true cornerstone of America’s progress on clean air and public health, we urge our Senators to draft legislation that complements and strengthens the House-passed climate and clean energy legislation to jumpstart a clean energy economy.

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