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***** Statement By Stephen A. Smith, SACE Executive Director *****

Senate Rejects the Dirty Air Act (Murkowski Resolution):

A victory for Climate and Clean Energy

Knoxville, TN. - Yesterday the U.S. Senate voted to reject Sen. Murkowski's Dirty Air Act resolution (S J Res 26) that sought to roll back the Clean Air Act's protections against carbon pollution while delaying our transition to a clean energy economy.

By defeating this resolution (final vote 53 to 47), the Senate upheld the scientifically-based endangerment finding released by the Environmental Protection Agency last December that global warming pollution endangers human health.

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Executive Director Dr. Stephen A. Smith had the following response:

"We applaud each Senator who rejected Senator Murkowski's 'Dirty Air Act' in favor of human health and environmental protection. It is incredulous that our leaders would even consider rolling back such critical protections as millions of gallons of oil continue to spew into the Gulf of Mexico each day.

"From the Southeastern state, only Senators Bill Nelson of Florida and Kay Hagan of North Carolina acknowledged the need to transition to a clean energy economy by weaning ourselves off dirty fuels that increase the harmful impacts of climate change and negatively impact human health. However, Senators George LeMieux of Florida, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker of Tennessee all cast votes to maintain our energy status quo and reward irresponsible polluters with decades more of fossil fuel dependence.

"We are hopeful that all Senators, particularly those who supported this resolution on the basis that Congress should legislate solutions, will now focus their efforts in order to pass long-awaited clean energy and climate policies that will move us towards a cleaner, more secure energy future.

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