

From: Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Green For All [mailto:team@greenforall.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 9:02 PM
Subject: Yet another reality check



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Dear Supporter,

Like the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, the unfolding tragedy of the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill is yet another reality check for America and its elected officials.

We can no longer allow ourselves to remain a country that allows such disasters to occur.

Faced with the potential loss of thousands of fishing jobs, rising cost of food and reduced income from tourism, local workers and communities in the region are being asked to choose between their health and safety and to provide for their families.

While those responsible for the spill evade questions of long-term compensation to the hard hit local industries, they are offering short-term, untrained and hazardous cleanup jobs to unemployed workers.

They can do a lot more.

Starting with the adequate training of cleanup workers and translation services on safe cleanup practices, they must also make large-scale investments in the region that jumpstart new clean industries and create thousands of new green jobs.

And yet amidst this latest American tragedy, there is also hope.

Local communities are organizing for justice and working to create sustainable, clean and green economic solutions. Notably, VAYLA, The Green Collaborative, Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, and NOLA Green Roots are just a few organizations leading the way.

And in Washington, D.C., Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman today rolled out a discussion draft of the American Power Act, their energy and climate change legislation.

We applaud the inclusion of the Green Construction Careers Demonstration Project in the American Power Act, a provision -- made possible thanks to our combined advocacy efforts -- included in the climate bill (ACES) passed by the House of Representatives almost a year ago.

But the U.S. Senate can do a lot more too.

The final legislation must include clean-energy investments that maximize opportunities for quality job creation, specifically for unrepresented populations who traditionally have had little access to career-track jobs.

And it must maintain the full ability of states and the EPA to advance solutions to our environmental and

economic challenges without politics impeding.

It is time for America's leaders to reduce our oil dependency, enhance our security, revitalize our economy and protect our environment.

Please send a clear and strong message to your Senators that millions of Americans demand the U.S. Senate pass comprehensive clean-energy and climate legislation in 2010.

Thank you,

Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins
Chief Executive Officer
Green For All

P.S. Learn more about the [Gulf Coast Catastrophe](#).

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