



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ConservAmerica Statement Regarding President Trump's Executive Order on Climate Change**

PHOENIX – “First of all, we urge our friends in the environmental movement to take a deep breath and not let emotions or extreme rhetoric (from the left or right) drive decisions, comments, and discord,” explained Rob Sisson, President of ConservAmerica. “Everyone knew the morning after the election that President Trump would act on the Clean Power Plan. We also knew that the most enduring and effective laws protecting our environment were legislated in Congress, and thus, are not edicts from Executive Branch departments.”

Paul Walker, Executive Director of ConservAmerica walked thru the four components of today's announced order:

#### **1. Review the Obama Clean Power Plan**

Walker explained ConservAmerica's view, “24 of the 50 U.S. states were suing the federal government over the Clean Power Plan. ConservAmerica has always been displeased with the Clean Power Plan's approach - it was a one-size-fits-all, federal directive that didn't factor in each state's actual situation. As but one example, the CPP required Illinois to cut emissions by 30% (like every other state) but ignored the fact that one-half of Illinois' power comes from nuclear plants - which have zero emissions of any sort. So, a 30% emissions cut requirement, was actually a 60% cut; because all the reductions would have to come from the half of power sources that had emissions.

We need a national power plan. It has to be based in reality: One reality is that climate change is real, anthropogenic, and presents a clear and present danger to the health, safety, security and prosperity of the United States. Another reality is that each state has different characteristics, capacities, challenges, and consumers.

Thus, a national power plan has to deal with climate change and emissions - but deal with those in the context of actual "facts on the ground". By working with state environmental agencies, the U.S. can achieve greater cooperation and thus, greater conservation of our nation's land, air, and water.”



## 2. Rescind moratorium on new coal permits on federal lands

Walker explained ConservAmerica's view:

"We understand the Administration's desire to help the coal industry - without question, President Trump is committed to helping those who have lost their jobs, their economy, and their community in coal country. But the reality is this: Coal has been falling and falling as an energy source - not one coal plant was closed under the Clean Power Plan; yet over 200 coal plants have closed, why?

Natural gas has become the fuel of choice for electric generation. Fracking has reduced the long-term price and the short-term volatility of natural gas to the point where it is now common for utilities to refund money each year thru purchased fuel adjustor mechanisms - because natural gas prices and volatility were lower than expected when rates were set.

Hundreds of coal plants across the world have also closed and plans for hundreds more have been shelved. America's coal producers face both a domestic and an international market that is far smaller than it was in the past. So coal companies are going to be very hesitant to sign more long-term leases and to invest more money into coal mines – regardless of whether the federal government is open to such leases.

We urge the Administration to focus its efforts on funding federal research, and incenting private sector research, into reducing CO2 emissions from coal-fired plants. *As just one example, we urge the Administration to work with the Carbon X Prize - an active effort to make carbon products out of the CO2 emissions from coal and natural gas-fired power plants (See: <http://carbon.xprize.org/>).*"

## 3. Identify all regulations that serve as obstacles to "American energy"

Walker explained ConservAmerica's view: "An honest effort here is much needed and could spur massive reforms that would increase nuclear power's role in America. Nuclear power is the world's largest source of zero emissions power - the U.S. still has no long-term storage location for spent fuel; worse still, the U.S. lags in reprocessing and recycling spent fuel - which would reduce mining and waste.

We believe that the right approach is to continue federal funding and research, and to streamline the tax code to incent American innovation and ingenuity to solve the 21st century's primary threat: Climate change. A broad review of all federal regulations and programs, that has as its goal the incenting of innovation to bring about a cleaner and more prosperous future, is something ConservAmerica strongly applauds."



#### 4. Focus on a "better, more prosperous economy"

Walker explained ConservAmerica's view: "Certainly, everyone in America agrees with developing a better, more prosperous economy. For many years, we have watched polling on "concern for the environment" move up and down with the public; what we concluded is that when Americans are productively employed, and feeling confident in their family's situation, they think more about the environment. And when times are hard, that becomes less of a priority. So building a stronger, healthier economy is actually essential to securing a better environment. Successful economies do that – look no further than China, which became wealthy in the past forty years, has become extremely concerned with its air, land and water quality.

However – We also urge the Administration to not completely abandon the previous Administration's work on preparing for climate change and its impacts.

Specifically, we believe the federal government should continue to "promote:

- A. engaged and strong partnerships and information sharing at all levels of government;
- B. risk-informed decision making and the tools to facilitate it;
- C. adaptive learning, in which experiences serve as opportunities to inform and adjust future actions; and
- D. preparedness planning."

[<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change> ]

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About ConservAmerica: ConservAmerica is a 501(c)4 organization whose mission is public outreach and education on land, energy, and water issues. ConservAmerica has been active on these issues for over 21 years. Our work is focused on Congressional outreach, public education, and active engagement with state public utility commissions.

To learn more, visit: [www.conservamerica.org](http://www.conservamerica.org)