

Congressman Lloyd Doggett (TX-25)

Statement Submitted For Step It Up: www.stepitup2007.org

In 1998, the United Nations convened hundreds of the world's top scientists and meteorologists in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Earlier this year, these scientists released their findings. The IPCC reported that the evidence of global warming is "unequivocal" and that its consequences will be far-reaching. The time to combat global warming is now. We must combat one of the greatest challenges of our time--global warming.

One example of the priorities that I share with 1 Sky is the importance of cutting carbon emissions 80% by 2050 and 30% by 2030. As a member of the Climate Change Caucus, I have co-sponsored several pieces of legislation aimed at curtailing the level of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, including the Safe Climate Act, which directly addresses our shared goal. This bill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that they are accurately tracked, reported, and verified.

To address coal-derived liquid fuel and its harms on the environment, I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1506, the Fuel Economy Reform Act. This bill would require a 35 mile per gallon average fuel economy standard similar to those that passed the Senate earlier this year.

In August, I voted in favor of the House green energy bill. As a longtime advocate for the environment on the House Ways and Means Committee, I was an active participant in developing new energy tax legislation. This bill, which the House has approved, contains a provision that I authored to provide consumer tax credits for the purchase of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, which can travel 25-60 miles solely on stored power, go the same distance as conventional vehicles, and are recharged by plugging-in to an electrical outlet between trips. It will take less than \$1 to buy the electricity required to power a plug-in vehicle as far as it would go on a gallon of gasoline. This comprehensive approach to our energy policies truly opens the door to running automobiles from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

Decisive action is necessary to stop the melting of the Arctic ice cap, the disappearance of polar bears, and the extreme weather patterns we have experienced. Every day of inaction is another day that we stand by as monster hurricanes, melting glaciers, and record hot temperatures erode the ecosystems of our planet. We cannot afford the cost of inaction.

Fuel economy reform and strong global warming legislation are critical to protecting consumers and our planet, which is why I will continue to "step up" to the challenge and lead in the fight against global warming.