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ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING: GREEN COLLAR JOBS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
AND GLOBAL WARMING
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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CONTENTS

	Page
Hon. Edward J. Markey, a Representative in Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, opening statement	1
Prepared Statement	3
Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., a Representative in Congress from the State of Wisconsin, opening statement	5
Hon. Hilda L. Solis, a Representative in Congress from the State of California, opening statement	6
Hon. Emanuel Cleaver II, a Representative in Congress from the State of Missouri, prepared statement	8
WITNESSES	
Mr. Van Jones, President and Co-Founder, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Oakland, CA	9
Prepared statement	12
Answers to submitted questions	53
Mr. Jerome Ringo, President of the Apollo Alliance	17
Prepared statement	19
Ms. Elsa Barboza, Campaign Coordinator for the Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education in Los Angeles, CA	23
Prepared statement	25
Mr. Robert Thelen, Chief Training Officer of Capital Area Michigan Works in Lansing, MI	30
Prepared statement	32
Answers to submitted questions	58
SUBMITTED MATERIAL	
Hon. Edward J. Markey, letter of May 22, 2007, from Mr. Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco	61

HEARING ON ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING; GREEN COLLAR JOBS

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
AND GLOBAL WARMING,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 2318 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edward Markey [chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Markey, Blumenauer, Inslee, Solis, Cleaver, Hall, Sensenbrenner, Shadegg, Sullivan and Miller.

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing is called to order.

Over the past five weeks, our Committee has examined some of the serious consequences of global warming and our oil dependence. We have heard how these two challenges threaten our national security, our economy, and our environment—all good reasons why we urgently need to implement policies that reduce global warming, pollution, and our oil consumption.

Today we will examine another good reason to adopt policies that will green our economy—the opportunity to create new jobs. We will learn that actions which serve the national interest can also serve the public interest, and that smart policies can provide a pathway out of poverty and into a green economy.

As we increase the energy efficiency and use the renewable energy of the United States, we will need green collar workers to create, manufacturer, install, and maintain these new clean technologies. The range of jobs and skills requirements is wide, but the potential employment impact is substantial. In a recent analysis, the Clean Tech Venture Network estimated that as many as 500,000 green collar jobs could be created by 2010.

We know that green collar jobs are already growing and having a broad impact on the economy. As just one example, the U.S. ethanol industry clearly has already created 154,000 jobs throughout the nation's economy in 2005 alone, boosting household incomes by $5.7 billion. But that is just a fraction of the potential jobs and economic growth that the green economy promises.

Even now workers trained for traditional jobs are translating their skill into green industries. Petroleum engineers have become biofuel entrepreneurs. Steel mill workers have become windmill makers. And roofers have become powerplant builders, as they install solar electricity shingles so that buildings can produce their own electricity.

In many communities, green collar jobs will have multiple benefits. Pilot programs across the country are already using low-income weatherization programs to train people in the skills needed to upgrade the efficiency of buildings.

Those families who increasingly struggle with the decision between heating and eating in the winter get warmer homes, lower energy bills, while trainees expand their job opportunities. In 2005, buildings accounted for nearly 40 percent of global warming pollution in the United States. So by combining upgrading homes and job training, global warming pollution will go down and the employment prospects of some of our poorest workers will go up.

In America, as we become more efficient and more reliant on renewable energy, the dirty power generation, which currently exists disproportionately in low-income areas can be replaced, including these communities. And the economic expansion promised by the green economy has the potential to bring large numbers of people out of poverty, while improving the environment and public health.

As FDR said about The New Deal, the test of our progress as a nation is not whether we do more for those who already have much, but whether we provide for those who have too little. The same is true for the green deal America now needs. In the green economy, opportunities must be available for the many, not just the few.

I look forward to learning from today's witnesses how the benefits of the green economy can be shared broadly. I now turn and recognize the gentleman from Wisconsin, the Ranking Member of the Committee, Mr. Sensenbrenner.

[The statement of Mr. Markey follows:]

Opening Statement for Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
"Economic Impacts of Global Warming–Green Collar Jobs"
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
May 22, 2007

Over the past five weeks, our committee has examined some of the serious consequences of global warming and our oil dependence. We've heard how these two challenges threaten our national security, our economy and our environment – all good reasons why we urgently need to implement policies that reduce global warming pollution and our oil consumption.

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As we increase the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in the United States, we will need "green collar" workers to create, manufacture, install and maintain these new, clean technologies. The range of jobs and skills requirements is wide, but the potential employment impact is substantial: in a recent analysis the Cleantech Venture Network estimated that as many as 500,000 green collar jobs could be created by 2010.

We know that green collar jobs are already growing and having a broad impact on the economy. As just one example, the U.S. ethanol industry created nearly 154,000 jobs throughout the nation's economy in 2005 alone, boosting household income by $5.7 billion. But that is just a fraction of the potential jobs and economic growth that the green economy promises.

Even now workers trained for traditional jobs are translating their skill into green industries: petroleum engineers have become biofuel entrepreneurs, steel mill workers have become windmill makers, and roofers have become power plant builders as they install solar electric shingles so that buildings can produce their own electricity.

In many communities, green collar jobs will have multiple benefits. Pilot programs across the country are already using low-income weatherization programs to train people in the skills needed to upgrade the efficiency of buildings. Those families who increasingly struggle with the decision between heating and eating in the winter get warmer homes and lower energy bills while trainees expand their job opportunities. In 2005 buildings accounted for nearly 40 percent of global warming pollution in the United States. So by combining upgrading homes and job training, global warming pollution will go down and the employment prospects of some our poorest workers will go up.

As America becomes more efficient and more reliant on renewable energy, the dirty power generation, which currently exists disproportionately in low-income areas, can be replaced. Including these communities in the economic expansion promised by the

green economy has the potential to bring large numbers of people out of poverty, while improving the environment and public health.

As FDR said about the New Deal: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have enough; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

The same is true for the green deal America needs now. In the green economy, opportunities must be available for the many, not just the few. I look forward to learning from today's witnesses how the benefits of the green economy can be shared broadly.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Today's hearing is about jobs. Specifically, we are going to talk today about creating new jobs, a topic that Republicans know something about. Since Congress passed tax relief in August 2003, the economy has added 7.8 million jobs.

I agree there is always room in the economy for more jobs and for better jobs, whether they are blue collar, white collar, or what seems to be the latest in workforce fashion green collar. We are likely to see today the Republicans and Democrats agree on the goal of job creation, but take different paths to reach that goal.

I believe the free market forces of the private sector offer the best road to job creation. I think that relying on the government to create jobs is a dead end. One question I would like to see answered today is exactly what a green collar job is.

One of our witnesses, Mr. Van Jones, wrote in Yes magazine that a green collar job includes construction work on a green building or even bicycle repair. Mr. Jones is devoted to creating more jobs and economic opportunities, and for that he is to be commended. He is also right to assert that some environmental projects will help create new jobs.

But I do think it is important that we distinguish between the new jobs created to develop advanced technology and jobs that play a supporting role to green technology. The reason this is an important distinction is because part of today's focus is on government job training programs. Already the Federal Government spends $5.3 billion annually on job training. States together spend $500 to $700 million each year. But the business community spends up to $56 billion per year. That is $56 billion with a B.

I am worried that by creating big government programs for so-called green collar job training what we really would be doing is simply duplicating the job training programs that already exist. It seems to me that many of the green collar jobs require the same blue collar skill sets that are already addressed by job training programs in both the public and private sectors.

Is construction of a green building that fundamentally different than constructing a traditional building? Is installing a solar panel fundamentally different than installing a satellite dish? I have serious questions about what type of job training will really be needed for the so-called green collar jobs.

As Mr. Thelen says in his prepared testimony, with individuals who are in transition, it is tempting to encourage them to train for the next hot job, whether that is in health careers, information technology, or in this case green jobs.

I think we need to be cautious about creating job training programs for jobs that don't yet exist. Thanks to the private sector, these jobs may be just around the corner, but we shouldn't rush to train the labor force for jobs that don't yet exist and may not require special training anyway.

I do think that there are ways to promote jobs that are directly related to green technology. In fact, I joined 388 of my colleagues in the House last month to approve a bill that I believe will help promote more green jobs. It is called the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds, Science and Math Scholarship Act.

It will create a scholarship program to encourage college students to become math and science teachers. These teachers will help to train a highly skilled workforce in the future. I firmly believe that we must look to advance technology in order to address global warming issues, and it seems that I am not the only one who believes that technology will play a big role in climate change policy.

Promoting advanced technology in hybrid cars is the number one point in the Apollo Alliance's plan for good jobs and energy independence. And I am happy that Mr. Jerome Ringo, Apollo Alliance's president, is here with us, and I look forward to hearing what types of advanced technology have captured his interest.

In March, the Bank of America announced a $20 billion program that will finance green programs, including mortgages on green buildings. Not to be outdone, Citigroup announced in May a $50 billion 10-year program devoted to funding green projects. That is $70 billion for green projects without a single dollar coming from the taxpayers.

Already many companies are talking about green initiatives, including Wal-mart, which recently announced it would place solar panels on at least 22 of their stores. If these companies need specially-trained employees, they certainly have the wherewithal to fund it on their own.

Green collar jobs will be good for the economy, just like white and blue collar jobs. I think the private sector is already on the path toward putting people to work in the green collar jobs, but I am worried that more big government programs will only create a roadblock.

I thank the chair and yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentlelady from California, Ms. Solis, is recognized.

Ms. SOLIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for inviting our witnesses that we are going to hear from today. I am sure they are going to have a lot of good information for us. But I do want to say that when we talk about the growth and innovation of the greening of our country, we can't forget rural America or those low-income areas. So when we think about Silicon Valley, think about also East Los Angeles, the Bronx, and Missouri. So we need to be thinking big picture here.

I would also like to say that a part of what I see or envision here in this new era is that the environmental industries that are experiencing major job growth—and I want to quote a paragraph from a letter that I just received from the Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Newsome. He said that they are experiencing major job growth, which includes green buildings, energy efficiency retrofit and service, renewable energy such as wind, solar, and biofuels.

Being service-intensive, these industries produce high-quality jobs that are less vulnerable to outsourcing. I think a very, very important aspect of this is that we are trying to keep our jobs here within the parameters of the U.S.A. So I know we are going to hear about this.

I am very excited about this opportunity and am looking at introducing legislation, along with my colleagues, Congressman Tierney, Congressman Miller, and Congressman McNerney, to see how we

could better serve, retrain, retrofit our workers who have lost jobs that have gone overseas, to keep them here, and then address the issue of our youth, underserved youth who we seem to be losing. They can also be a big magnet in attracting new innovation and getting them more involved in the new technological future in the environment.

So I look forward to hearing from you and yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SHADEGG. I thank the Chairman. And other than to commend you for holding this hearing, and note that our vibrant economy is responding with lots of market alternatives to the green jobs and creating green jobs, and that there are forces out there to try to fill the void, I will waive my opening statement.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman waives his opening statement.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. Cleaver.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, I would waive my comments and use it during my questioning.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Cleaver follows:]

U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II
5th District, Missouri
Statement for the Record
House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming Hearing
"Economic Impacts of Global Warming: Green Collar Jobs"
Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Sensenbrenner, other Members of the Select Committee, good afternoon.

To our distinguished panel of experts, I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming you to the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. I anticipate listening to your testimony today and hearing your suggestions on the impacts global warming and its anticipated effects on green collar jobs and the green economy.

I am sure that my colleagues on the Select Committee are quite aware by now that by investing in renewable energy, there can be lasting benefits for the environment and for our national security. Most Americans are in agreement that further development of alternative energy resources is positive. According to a recent poll, 79 percent of Americans believe shifting to alternative energy sources will help the economy and create jobs. The evidence seems to support this sentiment, as the Apollo Alliance report on green jobs indicates that major national investment in renewable energy and alternatively fueled vehicles would result in the creation of almost 3.5 million American jobs over a ten year period.

The advancement of new energy technologies like solar, wind, and alternatively fueled vehicles have the potential to create more job opportunities in the current workforce by putting existing skills to work. As our country makes progress towards achieving energy independence, we must also train American workers in these innovative processes in order to keep jobs in the United States. America will remain competitive in the global marketplace if our workers have the skills that are needed to thrive over international entities. Government must determine its role in this process when assessing needs for job training in new energy technologies. As Members of Congress, we have the responsibility to work with American companies and workers to encourage global competitiveness. International economic viability will create greater job security for American workers and it will help to secure America's national security.

I am encouraged by the work of the 110th Congress in promoting clean alternative energy and energy security. However, we must not overlook the fact that American workers are necessary components in order for these goals to be achieved. Secure energy is American energy, and our workforce must have the skill sets required for new technologies and processes to become feasible in this country. Today I look forward to hearing the witnesses' comments and suggestions for potential Congressional involvement in the promotion of green collar jobs. I thank them for testifying in front of the Committee, and I appreciate their insight.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The chair recognizes the gentleman from New York, Mr. Hall.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses, and I waive my opening statement.

The CHAIRMAN. Great.

I thought I saw Mr. Sullivan.

So let me then—let me begin now by recognizing our first witness. He is the President and Founder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, California. Mr. Jones has spent his career advocating for social and environmental justice and can point to the city of Oakland's adoption of his Green Jobs Corps proposal as just one of his many successes.

Mr. Jones, welcome. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

STATEMENTS OF MR. VAN JONES, PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER, ELLA BAKER CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA; MR. JEROME RINGO, PRESIDENT, APOLLO ALLIANCE, LOUISIANA; MS. ELSA BARBOZA, CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR FOR GREEN INDUSTRIES, STRATEGIC CONCEPTS IN ORGANIZING AND POLICY EDUCATION (SCOPE), LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; AND MR. BOB THELEN, CHIEF TRAINING OFFICER, CAPITAL AREA MICHIGAN WORKS, LANSING, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF VAN JONES

Mr. JONES. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members. I am very glad to be here.

Let me just jump right in. I really appreciated the comments from Mr. Sensenbrenner. I think they are right on point, and I want to get directly to them. First of all, I think all of us here can agree on at least three things. One is that, all things being equal, clean energy is better than dirty energy. We would rather have clean energy than dirty energy in our communities. It is more healthy for our children.

Two, conserving energy is better than wasting it. The creator has given us so much energy we shouldn't just, you know, waste it the way we are doing right now. And, third, if there is a way, and a smart way, to get a reduction in both poverty and pollution, we can cut both poverty and pollution, we would be foolish not to do so. So I think those three values we all share. The question is: what is the proper role for government? What is the proper role for markets?

I want to make an argument that there is a proper role for government moving forward. Number one, as we move from a dirty energy, wasteful economy, to a conservation-based clean energy economy, we automatically create more jobs. Why is that? We create more jobs because it takes more people to do energy the right way. If you want one megawatt of energy, and you want to use, say, natural gas to do it, which is the cleanest of all the dirty energy forms, one megawatt of energy will give you one job for an American worker. One job.

If you don't go with the gas, and instead you go with geothermal or wind, you get six jobs. If you go with solar power, photovoltaic,

you get 22 jobs. So you create the same amount of energy, but you create many, many more jobs. The problem that we have right now, contrary to some of your earlier concerns, is that our workforce development is actually lagging and lagging dramatically behind this opportunity.

We have the opportunity to grow the jobs, but we are already encountering labor shortages in Northern California where the green economy is moving forward most dramatically. Community colleges are not prepared, our vocational training programs are not prepared, and what we are hearing from eco-entrepreneurs themselves, the business leaders themselves in this field is that they are not getting the kinds of graduates from our programs that they need to be able to go to scale. So it is the business community from which we are hearing, at least in Northern California, that they need more help, they need better trained graduates.

The challenge that we now face is that as you begin to meet the workforce development needs of the business community, the cities and local municipalities cannot retrofit ourselves fast enough. Our community colleges don't have the money, they don't have the resources to turn around on a dime and meet this need. We need federal help. We need—we recognize that the Federal Government does do some work for us, development. Frankly, it has been doing less and less over time. We think it is time now to begin to take advantage of this opportunity and to invest more and invest more dramatically.

I also want to speak to Congresswoman Solis' point. This is the biggest opportunity that any of us will have to begin to create green pathways out of poverty, to begin to build a green economy that is strong enough to lift people out of poverty. I, for one, am conservative enough, I believe in work. I believe people should work their way out of poverty. But for too long we have been telling people in the neighborhoods where I work, you are supposed to climb out of poverty, a six-story ladder with three rungs on it.

We have got to start putting rungs back on the ladder of opportunity, and this green economy, this explosion of opportunity, means that we can actually begin to build green pathways out of poverty. If you teach a young person how to put up solar panels, that young person is on his or her way to becoming a solar engineer, an electrical engineer. They can join the United Electrical Workers Union. That is a green pathway to a union job out of poverty.

You teach a young person to double pane glass, so that building does not leak so much energy, that young person is now on the way to becoming a glazer. That is a union job. That is a green pathway out of poverty. And for too long the young people in this country have only heard one thing from us older folks, which is don't do drugs, don't shoot each other, don't get pregnant. And then we walk away from them, and we just leave them there to figure out, now what are they supposed to do.

I hope that both parties will say to this generation of Americans, "We have work for you to do." We want to reboot; we want to retrofit this whole economy. We want to do energy in this country in a clean way, and by doing it in a clean way we want to take that handgun out of your hand and put a caulk gun in your hand. We

want to give you some hope and some opportunity to do something beautiful for your country.

I think both parties should embrace that agenda. We don't have any throw-away resources. We don't have any throw-away species. We don't have any throw-away children or neighborhoods either.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Jones follows:]

Van Jones, J.D.
President, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Oakland, California

Remarks to Select Committee on
Energy Independence and Global Warming

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Clean Energy Jobs: Creating Green Pathways Out Of Poverty

Chairman Markey and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today.

I am here representing the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, in Oakland, California. We work hard every day to free urban youth from the cycle of violence, incarceration and joblessness. It is hard, uphill work.

But we come here today with great hope in our hearts.

We come here because we believe the green, clean-energy economy can do more than create business opportunities for the rich, as important as that is. We believe it can do more than give consumer choices to the affluent, as essential as that is.

We also believe that the green economy also can create job opportunities for the poor.

We believe a shift to clean energy can improve the health and well-being of low-income people, who suffer disproportionately from cancer, asthma and other respiratory ailments in our dirty-energy economy.

Also, we believe it can create entrepreneurial, wealth-building opportunities for those who need new avenues of economic advance.

In other words: we believe that the national effort to curb global warming and oil dependence can simultaneously create good jobs, safer streets and healthier communities.

For us, our highest calling is to ensure that the clean-energy economy in the 21st century in fact does all of these things. Indeed, we would say that America's chief moral obligation is to build a green economy that is strong enough to lift many people out of poverty.

Such a goal is attainable. At one time, many experts feared that breaking our addiction to oil would hurt the U.S. economy. Fortunately, those days are behind us. The business and financial communities increasingly are embracing a transition to a lower-carbon, clean energy economic system. They see such a shift as good both for the planet – and for their own profitability.

That is a very good thing. It means that we have – or we very soon will have – the clean technologies we need.

Today, the investors are lining up. The consumers are lining up. Polls how that a super-majority of voters are now ready for change.

Only two questions remain: do our elected leaders have the wisdom and the will to get our government firmly on the side of this transition? And do they have the moral commitment to ensure that this new "green wave" does in fact "lifts all boats?"

Fundamentally, both of these questions are moral ones. We simply have no "throw-away" resources or species. Nor do we have any "throw-away" neighborhoods or children. All of creation is sacred. All our people are precious. And we must begin to act again as if we know this fundamental truth – and that it matters to us.

The first step toward keeping faith with this truth is to begin to prepare American workers now for new jobs in the clean-energy future – especially those who most need jobs.

To do this, Congress must realign our workforce development and job

training dollars – to give ordinary Americans a shot at life-long careers in this growing part of the U.S. economy.

Congress must give our struggling vocational schools, community colleges and public high schools the resources they need to train and retrain our youth, displaced workers and veterans. A prepared "green-collar" workforce will be key to successful transition to a green economy.

That is why we applaud Senator Bernie Sanders, Congressman George Miller and Congresswoman Hilda Solis for their commitment to passing a Clean Energy Jobs Bill this year. A proposal is being developed to put $120 million into job training to get more than 30,000 U.S. workers (and would-be workers) properly install tens of millions of solar panels, build and maintain thousands of wind farms and weatherize millions of buildings.

God willing, you will all have the opportunity to vote for it. And I hope you will do so.

But this first jobs bill is only a first step. We cannot stop there.

We forget sometimes. But Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did not get famous giving a speech called, "I Have A Complaint!"

That was not his speech. We remember Dr. King because, in the midst of segregation, he was bold enough to have a dream.

And now is the time for America to dream again. Even in the midst of new dangers, now is the time for us to free our imaginations. Let us envision America meeting our economic and ecological challenges with our heads held high – not buried in our hands.

I think all of us here can embrace the dream of clear skies over our major port cities. Where idling ships once fouled the air, we dream of solar-powered energy stations that let docking sea vessels power up cleanly.

We imagine trucks purchasing cleaner bio-diesel blends, to take fair trade goods off the ships without polluting the neighborhood.

We envision eco-industrial parks on land once blighted by prisons.

We dream of seeing our dying blue-collar towns, struggling rural regions and poor neighborhoods blooming again—as dignified, "green-collar" meccas. We dream of rust-belt cities blossoming as Silicon Valleys of green capital.

We imagine Solution Centers, training young urban workers in new technologies and ancient wisdom. We imagine rural and urban youth creating zero-pollution products to sell. We imagine formerly incarcerated people moving from jail cells to solar cells – helping to harvest the sun, heal the land and repair their own souls.

We dream of local communities joining hands – across lines of class and color – to honor the Earth, create new jobs and reduce community violence.

And we need not limit the genius and industry of America to communities within our own borders. We can imagine global cooperation to give Africa and other struggling regions the means to grow economically, while preserving their natural environments.

We can imagine U.S. entrepreneurs and workers helping vast regions of China and India to power up with clean energy.

The best answer to our ecological crisis also answers our social crisis. The surest path to safe streets and peaceful communities is not more police and prisons, but ecologically sound economic development. And that same path can lead us to new, green economy – one with the power to lift people out of poverty while respecting and repairing the environment.

Some will call this unrealistic. They will advise America to keep her dreams small. But that cynicism is the problem, not the solution.

A national commitment to "green-collar jobs" will help this nation to address simultaneously our economic, ecological and spiritual crises.

We have the opportunity to honor God's creation in a new – and at the same time creating green pathways out of poverty for all of God's children. Let us begin.

Thank you very much, for your time and your attention.

- *Van Jones,*
President, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Steering Committee, National Apollo Alliance

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Jones, very much.

Next, we are going to hear from Jerome Ringo. He is the President of the Apollo Alliance. He has been employed for more than 20 years in Louisiana's petrochemical industry. He has firsthand experience in the challenges faced by workers and the communities near chemical plants and the benefits that green collar jobs can offer American workers.

We welcome you, Mr. Ringo. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

STATEMENT OF JEROME RINGO

Mr. RINGO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the Committee for inviting us here today.

The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor activists, business and environmentalists, faith community, what have you, who believe that our nation can and must achieve a triple bottom line, and that is profitability and markets for a growing, clean energy future industry, curbs on global warming pollution and good jobs for American families. We have got to bring jobs back to America, reduce our dependency on foreign oil, and get off the oil barrel that we have been held over by foreign countries.

We at Apollo believe that the ambitious $300 billion in federal spending over 10 years could create three million new good jobs for America. It would be a big win, but to win big we need to set forth and place the specific policy supports that seize the economic growth in jobs creation potential of new technologies.

We should view the development of a cap and trade system as an opportunity to create major job investment funds that would be used to develop more secure, home-grown energy supplies, and create those good jobs. Such programs would control global warming, pollution twice, once by capping pollution, then by supporting the new generation of clean power sources.

For instance, we would very much like—we very much like the idea enshrined in Senator Bingaman's cap and trade bill to move and start the date of carbon auctions ahead of the start date for capping the emissions. That puts the horse properly in front of the cart by creating a new energy investment fund that could be used proactively to ease any employment issues that might arise later from global warming pollution controls.

Likewise, we feel that we should match new regulations with positive job strategies. For instance, mandates to improve auto fuel economy should be packaged with the big retooling incentive to help the domestic auto industry transition to compete in the new marketplace. Also, any renewable energy standard will be more attractive if it is matched with loan guarantees for renewable energy manufacturing. That way we create jobs manufacturing wind turbines and solar panels, and at the same time the RES grows, and the market for renewable power.

Our analysis estimates that a $300 billion investment would return $306 billion to the Treasury at the end of 10 years, so it pays for itself. And just a few suggestions on how we can ensure clean energy for good jobs investment fund delivers on its promise for good jobs for working Americans. First, we need to finance a big increase in clean energy research and development.

I know both chambers are moving ARPA–E legislation. However, please make sure America captures the jobs by requiring that any new and successful technologies be licensed for development and commercialization first here in the United States. To the greatest extent, these technologies should use domestic materials.

Second, we need to establish a long-term certainty in the clean energy market. It is widely observed that inconsistent federal incentives have been a major barrier to clean energy development. A two- to three-year time horizon simply does not provide the assurance that project developers and component manufacturers need to justify investment decisions.

And, third, we want to match long-term market support with manufacturing incentives. As the market grows, so should our ability to produce clean energy systems and system components. Renewable energy is growing fast in the United States, but European and Asian manufacturers now account for more than 85 percent of the global market. And we need to build up our renewable energy manufacturing by strengthening the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program, so it supports manufacturing of proven energy technologies, not just pilot projects.

And, finally, we must do more to prepare the workforce for a green economy. We are proud to support Senator Sanders' efforts to create a clean energy workforce development program. And Senator Sanders' bill would not only ensure that we have the skilled workforce to meet the challenge, but it would also make sure that the jobs created are going to be jobs that people deserve and need the most.

And, Senator Solis, thank you, as she prepares counterpart legislation in the House. That legislation is crucially important to Apollo's strategy in creating clean energy and good jobs.

The challenge for congressional leaders today will be to ensure that we all get there together, working men and women alongside industry, environmentalists, and our national security community.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ringo follows:]

Jerome Ringo
President, the Apollo Alliance
Remarks to Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Chairman Markey and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today to talk about an issue of crucial importance to our nation's future. The Apollo Alliance offers a unique perspective on the issues before this committee, global warming and energy independence. As a coalition of labor unions, business, environmentalists, and community advocates, we believe our nation can and must achieve a triple bottom line: profitability and markets for a growing clean energy industry; curbs on global warming pollution; and good jobs for working families. My goal today is to set forth some benchmarks for achieving these goals.

As you know, energy independence and global warming have become top-tier issues, uniting Americans across the country. The public is clamoring for action, with environmentalists, working Americans, inner-city communities, technology innovators, investors, security Moms, family farmers, and more demanding change now.

We all realize that avoiding catastrophic climate change will require enormous changes in the ways we harness, consume, and manage energy. But there is also opportunity. The new energy revolution will transform our economy over the next generation – creating whole new industries and millions of new good jobs while reducing security risks. The economic potential, we believe, will be directly proportionate to the level of public investment. The Apollo Alliance estimates that an ambitious $300 billion in federal spending over 10 years would create over 3 million jobs. This includes a broad range of activities such as building efficiency, renewable energy investments, smart growth, biofuels development, advanced grid technology, and R&D initiatives.

But to win big, we need to set in place specific policy supports that seize the economic growth and job creation potential of these new technologies. In the 1990s, Japan decided solar energy was a strategic industry and set in place long-term supports. Today, Japan controls half the world's solar manufacturing. As many of you know, the United States invented solar technology. We can't let this happen again.

Apollo's partners across the country are already pulling together in surprising and non-traditional alliances to build a new energy future. In Massachusetts, IBEW Local 103 has developed a top-flight apprentice training program for solar and wind power installation. As part of that training program it also built a monument to our new energy future by

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installing a wind tower at its headquarters that literally towers over motorists traveling the Rt. 93 Southeast Expressway. That commitment to the future explains why Local 103 has partnered with Cape Wind on developing an offshore wind project that will create up to 1,000 new jobs and offset almost one million tons of CO2.

Now it's time for Congress to meet innovators such as Cape Wind and IBEW local 103 half-way.

As it fashions a new energy and global warming policy, Congress should also focus on the specific measures needed to create good, clean energy jobs. Only by ensuring that all Americans come out winners will we build enough public support to do what must be done on the scale necessary to curb global warming and achieve energy independence.

That will require a shift of perspective as we tackle each phase of energy policymaking. So, for instance, we should view development of a cap-and-trade system as the opportunity to generate a major investment fund that will be used to develop more secure, homegrown energy supplies and create good jobs. Such a program would control global warming pollution twice: once by capping pollution, then by supporting a new generation of clean power sources. For instance, we very much like the idea enshrined in Sen. Bingaman's cap-and-trade bill to move the start date of carbon auctions ahead of the start date for capping emissions. That puts the horse properly in front of the cart by creating a new energy investment fund that could be used proactively to ease any employment issues that might arise later from global warming pollution controls.

We also urge you to consider the proposal put forth by IBEW International President Ed Hill and American Electric Power CEO Michael Morris to require that imports of energy-intensive products come with emissions credits if the exporting country does not control its carbon emissions. Doing so would give our trading partners an incentive to reduce global warming pollution, essential to solving this global problem while allowing the United States to move forward without fearing a loss of competitiveness.

Likewise, we should match new regulations with positive job-creation strategies. For instance, mandates to improve auto fuel economy should be packaged with big retooling incentives to help the domestic auto industry transition to compete in the new marketplace. Also, any Renewable Energy Standard will be more attractive if it is matched with loan guarantees for renewable energy manufacturing. That way, we'll create jobs manufacturing wind turbines and solar panels at the same time that the RES grows the market for renewable power.

If I leave you with one message today, it is this: We're more likely to build a new energy future with good jobs for working Americans if we ensure any new energy policy is an investment strategy as well as a regulatory strategy.

We believe the time is ripe for Congress to create a *Clean Energy for Good Jobs Investment Fund* on a major scale. We can put together the $300 billion dollars fund over ten years called for by Apollo by rolling back oil subsidies, reprogramming some existing

funds, auctioning carbon credits, and capturing the increased tax revenue from new clean energy industries. Our analysis estimates that a $300 billion dollar investment would return $306 billion to the Treasury at the end of the ten years.

Administering such a fund should achieve three objectives. First, it should continuously bring new technologies to the mass market. Green collar jobs will develop amidst strong demand. Second, it should ensure that these technologies are manufactured domestically. Third, it should invest in the domestic workforce so that we have the skills needed in manufacturing, design, installation, maintenance and science.

Here are just a few suggestions on how we can ensure that a *Clean Energy for Good Jobs Investment Fund* delivers on its promise of good jobs for working Americans:

First, finance a big increase in clean energy R & D. I know both chambers are moving ARPA-E legislation. However, please make sure America captures the jobs by requiring that any new and successful technologies be licensed for development and commercialization first in the United States. To the greatest extent practicable, these technologies should use domestically produced materials.

Second, establish long-term certainty in the clean energy market. It's widely observed that inconsistent federal incentives have been a major barrier to clean energy development. A 2-3 year time horizon simply does not provide the assurance that project developers and component manufacturers need to justify investment decisions. Renewable energy leaders such as Japan and Germany achieved dominance because of policy supports which endured for a decade or longer. A *Clean Energy for Good Jobs Fund* should be used to pay for ten-year extensions of the production tax credit and the investment tax credit. If taxpayers provide this level of support, however, industry should be open to paying workers good, prevailing wages and creating domestic jobs.

Third, match long term market support with manufacturing incentives. As the market grows, so should our ability to produce clean energy systems and system components. Renewable energy is growing fast in the United States, but European and Asian manufacturers now account for more that 85% of the global market. We can build up our renewable energy manufacturing by strengthening the DOE's loan guarantee program so it supports manufacture of proven clean energy technologies, not just pilot projects. As several states have done, we can provide tax incentives or grant funding for manufacturing investments. If a manufacturer benefits from taxpayer support, we should also ensure that they use domestic content, pay family supporting wages, and provide a credible job creation strategy.

Finally, we must do more to prepare the workforce for the green economy. We are proud to support Senator Sanders' effort to create a new clean energy workforce development program. Senator Sanders' bill would not only ensure we have the skilled workforce to meet the challenge, it also would make sure that the jobs created will be going to people that deserve and need them the most. We are pleased to work with Rep. Solis as she prepares counterpart legislation in the House. This legislation is crucially

important to Apollo's strategy of creating clean energy jobs because it says to working America: there is a future for you in the new energy economy.

We have called on the "can do" spirit of the original Apollo program in our Alliance's name because we believe the American people are once more ready for a great challenge. Energy will be the transformative issue of our generation.

The challenge for Congressional leaders today will be to ensure that we all get there together: working men and women alongside industry, environmentalists, and our national security community.

We're confident this great nation can get the job done; we're confident we can get there with your leadership.

Thank you.

# # #

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The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Ringo, very much.

Our next witness I would like to recognize is Elsa Barboza, the Campaign Coordinator for the Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education in Los Angeles. Her latest project involves developing a green career ladder training program to provide workers to upgrade the efficiencies of the L.A. city buildings.

Ms. Barboza, thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

STATEMENT OF ELSA BARBOZA

Ms. BARBOZA. Good afternoon. My name is Elsa Barboza. I am representing SCOPE, a grass-roots organizing and policy institute in Los Angeles, and we convene a progressive alliance in Los Angeles called the Los Angeles Apollo Alliance. And what we are about is to take the second-largest U.S. city and shape its economy and transition its economy to a clean and sustainable and equitable economy, and to address poverty in Los Angeles.

Thank you for having this hearing today on green jobs and global warming. It acknowledges that energy independence is a jobs issue. It is a workforce development issue. It is an equity issue.

I just want to spend a little bit of time talking to you about what our green jobs campaign is, but let me give you the backdrop to the story. The backdrop is that in Los Angeles the low-income communities of color, like South Los Angeles, like East Los Angeles, face the same underlying systemic trends as other low-income major cities, other low-income communities in major cities. Economic restructuring and globalization, so those high-wage, long-term union jobs have been lost, and they have been replaced by low-wage, short-term temporary jobs.

Shifts in public policy have rolled back the changes that have been made. Increased division along geographic racial and income lines resulting in 30 years of disinvestment in low-income and communities of color. Severe environmental inequity and crisis-level health impacts in poor communities. So according to the World Health Organization, in the United States such groups such as the inner city poor have extremely poor health, poor characteristic—more characteristic of a poor, developing country rather than a rich, industrialized one.

I will skip over all of the data that talks about how one in four Latinos and African-Americans live in poverty. With all of that as a backdrop, we have—we are contributing to growing to the job sector of the green industry in Los Angeles. The L.A. Apollo Alliance is focusing political power toward shaping and transitioning to the new economy.

Just in L.A. alone, billions of dollars in development are in the works right now for Los Angeles for the next two, five, ten years. In February of 2006, 23 labor community environmental groups came together to make sure that that development is going to be green. So we came together to create quality jobs in the new green industry and focus on the unionization of the new economy to ensure livable wage jobs and benefits for families.

And we also came together to focus on the workforce development, training, and access for communities of color in low-income communities, to lead and establish the needed work to make the move to a clean energy economy. So our vision is to create a pipe-

line that upgrades the skills of existing workers, backfills with new workers, and addresses the basic skills gap of low-income communities of color.

Connecting to union apprenticeships, where there is a job at the end of the training, so that we are not doing training just for training's sake; that we are creating healthier and safer communities and prioritizing the environmental uplift of inner city communities, and impacting the public sector to take leadership and grow and show a critical mass of results to move into the private sector.

L.A. is unique in the level of collaboration and political leadership. We are poised to contribute a critical piece of the national strategy. Los Angeles' Mayor Antonio Veragosa and other City Council members have committed to a partnership to shape a new economy in Los Angeles.

Two things. One is the level of public education and organizing in Los Angeles is high. We collected over 6,000 signatures from Angelinos calling for this new economy. Over 15,000 Angelinos were educated and mobilized to vote using this division in the mission of the Apollo Alliance to gauge California propositions last fall.

Why is there such a resonance? Because this really is a catapult to large-scale job creation in Los Angeles and in the country. It is a way to link community members to union jobs and other type jobs, as well as to promote environmental benefits of what is needed today. So how we are able to put together the progressive majority in Los Angeles, and in the country, we think that we have a model to do that.

Our first campaign is around conducting an energy audit of city buildings to identify the sites and job potential, to make them energy and water efficient with those technologies, to create 2,000 union jobs, to establish policies to see the development of local green building manufacturing in Los Angeles, and to establish a green career ladder training program to connect inner city communities to green jobs.

And this is all in the short term. So the possibilities for the green economy to help reshape our country and the major cities is vast.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Barboza follows:]

STRATEGIC CONCEPTS IN ORGANIZING & POLICY EDUCATION

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Written Testimony Submitted to The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming by Elsa Barboza, SCOPE/Convener of the Los Apollo Alliance
May 22, 2007

Introduction

Good Afternoon. My name is Elsa Barboza. I am representing SCOPE, a Grassroots Organizing & Policy Institution in Los Angeles. We convene a progressive alliance called the Los Angeles Apollo Alliance which includes 23 Community Organizations, Labor unions and Environmental groups throughout Los Angeles. We are committed to shaping the second largest US city's regional economy into a sustainable, equitable and clean energy economy and to addressing poverty in Los Angeles' low-income communities of color. Thank you for inviting me to share our perspective as you consider the critical issue of green jobs and global warming. I would like to share with you today our perspective from the 15 months of on-the-ground experience with the LA Apollo Alliance and our first Green Jobs Campaign, as well as what SCOPE has learned from the 14 years of leading initiatives that create pipelines for the unemployed, underemployed and existing workers to careers in key regional industries.

CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

In Los Angeles, low-income communities of color like South Los Angeles and East Los Angeles, face the same underlying systemic trends that contribute to other low-income and working-class communities in the major cities in the US, like (1) **Economic Restructuring and Globalization which has resulted in a** thirty-year trend of high-wage, long-term, union jobs being lost, and so-called economic growth resulting in tens of thousands of new jobs with low-wages, temporary and/or part-time status, and few, if any, benefits; (2) **Shifts in Public Policy** where almost every major social gain won in the last 50 years have been cut or rolled back in a series of attacks; (3) **Increased division along geographic, racial and income lines** resulting in thirty years of divestment in urban communities of color and competition over shrinking public resources amongst City suburbs and urban areas; and (4) **Severe environmental inequity and crisis-level health impacts in poor communities.** According to the World Health Organization, in the United States, some groups, such as the inner city poor, have extremely poor health, more characteristic of a poor developing country rather than a rich industrialized one.

Today, about one-third of households in the Los Angeles region are struggling to make ends meet; a single parent with two children needs to earn over $45,000 in order to be self-sufficient.[i] One in four Latinos and African-Americans lives in poverty.[ii] Furthermore, pollution and degrading environmental conditions are contributing to high rates of asthma, cancer, diabetes and other health problems. Communities of color in Los Angeles are most likely to be living in unhealthy conditions and suffer from poor health. Latinos are 66% and African Americans are 50% more likely to live near hazardous waste sites than whites.[iii]

With this stark context, SCOPE's mission is to build a multiracial grassroots organization and leadership in LA's affected communities to become active participants in public policy to shape institutions and policies that will create an economy that works for all and creates access to quality economic opportunities for the unemployed and the underemployed. Toward this, we seek to contribute to proactive strategies in collaboration with municipal, state and hopefully federal leadership to shape an equitable and sustainable economy.

As the Select Committee considers these issues, I would like to highlight the need to prioritize Workforce Development Training and True Equity for All Communities as the key lynchpins for creating access to a quality economy.

CONTRIBUTION TO GROWING THE JOB SECTOR BY THE LOS ANGELES APOLLO ALLIANCE

The LA Apollo Alliance mission is to focus political power toward shaping and transitioning to a new economy that is environmentally sustainable & economically prosperous for all. In February 2006, 23 labor, community and environmental groups came together to:

- Create Quality jobs in the new "green" industry and focus on unionization of this new economy to ensure livable wage jobs and benefits for families.
- Focus on workforce development training and access for communities of color and low-income communities to lead and establish the needed work to make move to a clean energy economy. Our vision is to create a pipeline to upgrade the skills of existing workers, backfill with new workers and address the basic skills gap of low-income communities of color.
- Create healthier and safer communities and prioritize the environmental uplift of inner city communities

- Impact the public sector to take leadership and grow and show a critical mass of results to move into the private sector

Los Angeles is unique in the level of collaboration and political leadership. The formation of the LA Apollo Alliance is poised to contribute a critical piece of a national strategy. The commitment of these groups to strategize and come together under one mission is a positive step vs. working separately on single efforts. This alliance strategy resulted in a successful public launch of our Alliance and efforts with over 500 community supporters, alliance members and policymakers present. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Council President Eric Garcetti and a key South Los Angeles Councilman Herb J. Wesson embraced the Alliance effort and a Partnership was formed to shape a new economy in Los Angeles. An overwhelming grassroots and public action plan has also added to this dynamic collaboration. African-American and Latino community members and alliance members around the city have collected over 5,000 signatures from communities and constituencies seeking to new economic opportunities for Angelenos. Over 15,000 Angelenos were educated and mobilized to vote with these issues used as a measuring stick when gauging California propositions last Fall. Why is there such a resonance? Because the seeding of a "Green" industry that could potentially catapult large-scale job creation, link unemployed community members and upgrade local, incumbent union workers through training programs with innovative, specialized training in "green" AND promote environmental benefits is what's needed today.

OUR GREEN JOBS CAMPAIGN

Our first Green jobs and training campaign calls on the City of Los Angeles to

(1) Conduct an energy audit of city building to identify the sites and job potential, (2) Secure $100 Million to retrofit 100 existing city buildings with energy and water efficient technologies (3) Create 2,000 union jobs for new & incumbent workers, (4) Establish policies to Seed the Development of Local Green Building Manufacturing, and (5) Establish a Careers Ladder Training Program to connect inner city communities to Green Jobs.

Greening existing infrastructure such as buildings is a great way to preserve and make more sustainable older urban communities that have been neglected. Historically disinvested communities should be prioritized because these neighborhoods have typically been ignored in favor of larger projects in richer more high-profile areas. Equitable public investment in urban areas means not only improving infrastructure , but also improving economic opportunities, particularly

for low-income inner city residents. Projects that pay workers a fair wage can also benefit the local community, particularly low-income urban workers. Cities and states have the opportunity to shape a new economy that creates demand for green products and services; generates jobs in green construction, facilities maintenance and operations, manufacturing and professional occupations; and healthy, sustainable communities. Municipal green retrofitting provides important environmental, social and economic benefits to the urban core of Los Angeles. For example, the City of Los Angeles alone owns over 1800 City buildings. Just in the community of South Los Angeles, there are close to 200 City-Owned buildings. This does not include the vast number owned by the proprietary departments of the City of Los Angeles like the Airports, the Ports, etc. Therefore, the level of Reduction of pollution caused by inefficient buildings and the level of cost savings for the City the size of Los Angeles IS ENORMOUS and the scope and scale of economic opportunities is vast.

In addition, the historical disinvestment of resources and jobs has crippled our community, which is the case of many American cities and in most inner-city, working-class and low-income communities of color. South Los Angeles families have over 30 years under their belt of a declining manufacturing industry and union jobs, disinvestment and environmental decay and pollution. The LA Apollo Alliance sees a number of green career ladder pipelines that could impact the regional economy and access for low-income communities. There is a green-building Construction pipeline which provides an opportunity to upgrade the skills of current workers and train new workers in skills and technologies. Another pipeline is the operations and maintenance jobs to maintain the large number of water and energy efficient retrofitted buildings. And a third is the largest pipeline of manufacturing and assembly jobs of green-building products and green technologies.

THE TIME IS NOW

The time is now for strategic opportunities to make major strides and take advantage of the political window to win larger-scale job creation and long-lasting systemic policies that significantly impact regional trends and conditions.

Targeting policy and resources towards the development of an emerging, regional, green industry in Los Angeles is an opportunity to craft a regional strategy that re-energizes Los Angeles' economy, environment and neighborhoods. As the first of many public policy initiatives, our first initiative demonstrates a comprehensive environmental, public health and economic workforce development strategy.

Thank you for allowing me to share the work of Los Angeles Apollo Alliance with you this afternoon.

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1 World Health Organization, (2000) "The World health Report 2000 Health systems: Improving Performance" Available at: http://www.who.int/whr/previous/en/index.html

2 Pearce, Diana and Rachel Cassidy, "Overlooked & Undercounted" prepared for Wider Opportunities for Women and Californians for Family Economic Self-Sufficiency, 2003.

3US Census Bureau, PCT15A, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

4 Communities for a Better Environment, "Building a Regional Voice for Environmental Justice," September 2004.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Ms. Barboza.

And our final witness is Robert Thelen. He is the Chief Training Officer of Capital Area Michigan Works in Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Thelen has spent 35 years working with economic and workforce development programs and has vast experience with the needs of workers retraining for new careers.

Thank you for your testimony this afternoon, Mr. Thelen. Would you turn on your microphone, please?

STATEMENT OF BOB THELEN

Mr. THELEN. Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Sensenbrenner, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am Bob Thelen, and I do appreciate being here today.

Our mission at Capital Area Michigan works is to enhance the quality and productivity of people and businesses by providing a world of occupational choices. But what is the potential for green collar jobs in the United States?

An environmentally conscious population is looking for responsible corporations who reduce, reuse, and recycle. They want to give these corporations their business, and, as a result, businesses are enjoying gains in brand-name recognition and consumer confidence.

As world recognition increases the need for environmentally friendly lifestyles, many businesses are recognizing that staying in business has much to do with environmental responsiveness for consumers who are supporting the products and services that they deem to be environmentally friendly. I give specific examples in my testimony.

We know that the employers that will keep America running in the future—and that will be important to the bottom line of America's corporations—are those who have an understanding of environmental needs and specific business processes related to their needs.

One of my areas of interest and where I have spent my career is helping young people and adults develop their career plans, and for adults who are dealing with transition, helped them move through that transition. We know that young people will be involved in eight to ten different careers during their lifetime. It is particularly vital that we understand the changes in our labor market and how we prepare individuals to enter and reenter the labor market.

I think many of these green collar jobs are being filled by individuals with an existing set of knowledges and skills who are now choosing to apply these skills and knowledges to a new sector of the economy, i.e. green industries. This past winter I had an opportunity to spend a week in a training program at an ethanol facility, and it was very enlightening.

And as I was reflecting on this, I realized that the typical ethanol facility has about 37 to 38 employees. Of those 38 employees, 32 of them were involved in—were traditional manufacturing job classifications, such as maintenance and repair workers, equipment operators, and transportation and material movers.

The industries in which these individuals are applying their skills and knowledges may be new. However, the necessary knowledges and skills are not entirely new.

And I noticed this: I went out to some of the green job boards, and I noticed the titles of the jobs that people were recruiting for were very traditional job titles, such as CFO, corporate attorney, technical services director. I even noticed that the company I worked for in college as a tree trimmer is now listed under green industry jobs.

So in most cases we are not preparing people for green collar jobs. We are preparing people for jobs that, at this stage in their life, they are applying their skills to needs of industry that is focused on environmental concerns. As an example, a lab technician, who today works at a brewery, tomorrow may choose to work at an ethanol facility—a true example—and the person at the ethanol facility, he went to work for Seagrams. So go figure.

So how do we understand and address these green jobs? I think the most critical thing is helping people like myself, our teachers, our workforce people, understand, what are these jobs? Are there some new jobs, or are many of them just transition—or just sort of places where people are applying a traditional set of skills in a new environment? So we need to figure out how to inform teachers.

The main thing as I work with teachers and counselors is I am helping them use quality career information. We have to ensure that this information is out there, and the main way we do that is through federal publications, such as ONET, Career Infonet, and systems like that that are out there supported by the Federal Government.

With students who are currently in high school or college, they have a longer timeframe. But it is so important we help these kids understand how they connect what they are learning in school to these real-world applications. We know that kids today who are in school must have high-quality jobs.

Let me just close with this. In closing, I would like to reflect on what a 16-year-old student told me about 35 years ago when I asked him what he wanted to do. What he said to me is as appropriate today as it was then. "Don't ask me what I want to do until you show me what there is to do." Our responsibility is to help students connect academic studies to real-world jobs.

Thank you very much, Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Thelen follows:]

TESTIMONY OF

ROBERT THELEN

CHIEF TRAINING OFFICER

CAPITAL AREA MICHIGAN WORKS

AT THE HEARING BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

ENTITLED

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARNING: GREEN COLLAR JOBS

May 22, 2007

Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Sensenbrenner and distinguished members of the committee, I am Bob Thelen, Chief Training Officer at Capital Area Michigan Works! (CAMW!) in Lansing, Michigan. Our mission is: To enhance the quality and productivity of people and businesses by providing a world class workforce. CAMW!, is the agent for delivering state and federally-funded programs for employment, training, and economic development systems in the Mid-Michigan region. In my capacity at CAMW! I coordinate training with employers in our region. In addition, I train counselors and workforce development professionals in Michigan to become certified as Career Development Facilitators.

Our CAMW! Service Center has been recognized nationally as a state-of-art, one-stop center. We are recognized as the #1 Leader in Workforce Development in the region by the business community and have been awarded the *Collaborative Partnership Award* by the Michigan Department of Education.

My career, which spans over 35 years, includes a focus on Economic and Workforce Development programs. I was the director of Career and Workforce Programs at a Regional Technical Center in Michigan for 30 years. In 1996 we were named by the Governor as the Outstanding

Education and Training Provider. In addition, I operated a Statewide Career Information System for ten years which provided career and labor market information to youths and adults in Michigan.

What is the potential for green collar jobs in the United States?

A new and emerging focus on environmental issues is changing the way businesses operate internally, in the products they create and in the jobs that they provide. These changes are resulting in the evolution of some jobs to include a new environmental consciousness. They are also resulting in increased focus for some jobs on highlighting and targeting environmental aspects within the corporations. It's also changing the products that some companies produce, and how they produce them.

An environmentally conscious population is looking for responsible corporations who reduce, reuse and recycle; they want to give these corporations their business. As a result, businesses are enjoying gains in brand name recognition and consumer confidence. As world recognition increases the need for environmentally friendly lifestyles, many businesses are realizing that staying in business has much to do with environmental responsiveness for consumers who are supporting products/services they deem as being environmentally friendly.

Businesses are finding out that environmentally friendly practices are good for the bottom line. These practices also increase companies' reputation for environmental action. Businesses are employing more people to research and develop methods for internal energy and waste reduction resulting in billions of dollars in savings. Jobs are growing in the area of monitoring a company's energy and material waste as well as the environmental impacts of their internal processes.

Examples of company waste reduction include utilizing new packaging designs where materials are being recycled instead of discarded. New environmentally sensitive and recyclable packaging materials are being developed for less impact on landfills. Companies are looking at new

ways to reduce energy and material waste used in product manufacturing and also in the company's business operations.

For example, companies are installing energy-efficient lighting and reducing/recycling most of their paper and raw material waste. Jobs are needed in the areas of research and design of new energy efficient systems as well as jobs that help us understand ways to recycle many of the materials that are commonly discarded in our current era of planned product obsolescence. It also means an increase in jobs for manufacturing companies who create products from recycled goods.

Automakers and other manufacturers are hiring people who know how to view products from the angle of recyclables. Recyclable parts in cars can include everything from the tires and glass to the plastics and fuels. In another business, Nike employees are designing shoes that can be disassembled easily and the pieces ground up to make playground surfaces. Starbucks is increasing their use of recycled materials for their cups.

All these changes mean that new green collar jobs are emerging within industries committed to creating and supplying these recycled goods.

Another area that is providing these green collar jobs, is the energy field where a lot of media focus has been created. Jobs are emerging as more demand is focused on alternative energy sources such as wind, tidal and solar technologies. Jobs are emerging in areas intent on replacing carbon generating power as an energy source for powering vehicles, home and office environments. Emerging jobs in biofuels continue to expand as workers at all levels of the company with knowledge of environmentally friendly processes are being employed.

The construction industry is another example of a place where "green-collar workers" are needed. For example, designers are developing communities that allow residents to buy groceries and

other products within easy walking distances of their homes. Products and services in this industry are also focused on reducing the amount of energy needed to operate modern living environments.

Because of the systemic nature of the American economy, even jobs at investment firms are evolving to meet the demand for stock portfolios that include environmentally sensitive businesses. Determining how and in what way businesses are deemed environmentally sensitive is becoming part of the skill set needed in the financial world.

New farming jobs for organically grown products focus on how to best accomplish their goals. Pharmaceutical companies are challenging employees to find "green" solutions for more natural medicines.

These rapid changes are requiring all workers to be able to retool themselves, and apply knowledge from one business or industry to better meet the needs of a focus on environmental/green issues. This is done either internally in the business where they've worked for a number of years or in new and emerging businesses that demand workers who have a background of knowledge and a proven set of skills.

The employees that will keep America running in the future and that will be important to the bottom line of America's corporations are those who have an understanding of environmental needs and specific business processes related to these needs. They will be workers who can <u>think creatively</u> about how to meet the demands of changing situations and create methods and processes to enhance business responsiveness to our changing world.

This creativity will also be needed by workers as the pace of change increases in the job market. Depending on the research you review, we know young adults entering the work force will potentially have 8-10 separate careers during their work life. In Michigan, we have also faced the difficult tasks of working with individuals who are being displaced from their current job—

particularly manufacturing jobs. Therefore it is vital that we understand the changes that constantly occur in the labor market and how we can prepare individuals to re-enter that labor market.

Many of these "green collar jobs" are being filled by individuals with an existing set of knowledge and skills who are able to apply their skills and knowledge to a new sector of the economy i.e. green industries. One could say that to be prepared for these new green collar jobs requires that you have a set of skills and knowledge that can easily be transitioned to the new green economy.

For example, I spent a week learning about ethanol and ethanol-related jobs in January 2007. Even though there may be debate concerning the benefits of ethanol, we all are aware of the focus of ethanol in this country—especially in the Mid-West. What I came to realize was that most of the jobs in ethanol facilities are not truly "ethanol jobs" that require new skills. Of the 38 typical jobs in an ethanol facility, 32 of them fall into traditional manufacturing job classifications of: Maintenance and Repair Workers, Equipment Operators and Transportation and Material Movers. The industries in which these individuals are applying their skills and knowledge may be new; however, the necessary knowledge and skills are not entirely new. People who have the prerequisite skill sets are now applying their skill sets in these new industries. One exception to this is that anybody who desires to work in an ethanol facility would need to learn some of the unique aspects of an ethanol facility.

If you examine the various job boards that post "green jobs." Green Job Boards list careers in science and engineering, social sciences, humanities and the arts, the professions and business. For many of these traditional job classifications, people would need to apply their proven skills and abilities within a new industry. For example, there is a job posting for a chief financial officer. The job description includes the traditional activities we would expect of a CFO—budgeting, project financing, strategic planning etc. Other postings include corporate attorney and technical service

provider. I even noticed that the company I worked for in college as a tree trimmer is now listed under *Green Industry Jobs.*

In most cases we are not preparing people for green collar jobs; we are preparing people for jobs that, at this stage in their life, apply their set of skills to needs of industry that is focused on environmental considerations. As an example the lab technician, who today is working in a brewery may chose to apply his or her set of skills to an ethanol facility—true example!

With individuals who are in transition, it is temping to encourage then to train for the next "hot job"—whether that is in health careers, informational technology or in this case green jobs. I think we do people a disservice when we initially focus only on a specific employment sector. We need to help individuals expand their ideas and become aware of all career opportunities, including the concept of related green collar jobs. Through career research, clients narrow down to those jobs within their interest area.

So how do we address the need for these new "green jobs?"

- We must first understand, via a task analysis, what information and skills these green collar jobs require.
- If these are totally new careers, we need to determine what specific new skill sets are needed for these employees to succeed. This will naturally be dependent upon the industry sector.
- What policies are needed to steer our workforce development and educational communities?

To answer this, one of the major issues we need to address is how we inform teachers and counselors working in public schools, as well as work force development agencies, to understand these new opportunities. For example, when working with displaced workers, a key activity is helping these

workers discover how their existing skills can transfer to new jobs. For example, how does a maintenance worker in an automotive facility apply their set of skills within a "green job" market? Most work force development counselors want to ensure that clients are prepared for their next job. They achieve this by helping their clients understand their unique interests, values and aptitudes. If we are to help clients explore new and emerging green jobs, it will require quality career information which includes information we would find on O*NET, the Occupation Outlook Handbook and other career or labor market information available through government publications. From my experience the best career information is not promotional material put out by associations related to a specific industry. We need to have quality career material developed by nonbiased professionals who understand how to analyze and describe new or emerging jobs. This information is vital whether we counsel clients in transition, high school students or college students.

With students who are currently in high school or college the time frame for understanding career possibilities is longer and the sense of urgency is not as great as with displaced workers. Many students naturally want to be involved in environmentally friendly careers. To ensure these students have as many options open as possible, when they transition to the work environment, the best we can do as educators is to provide our students with strong information on how the academics they study are used by real workers in various industries. It will be imperative that teachers learn to merge career information and experiences into traditional academic courses so that all students understand the relevance of how their academics connect with real workplace experiences. Academic relevance will help more students graduate and fill emerging and in-demand careers. Relevance will help high-achieving students select excellent in-demand opportunities. All students need a complete set of academic and technical skills before they leave our high schools and colleges.

All students need to be given opportunities to use creativity in a variety of contexts in order to be able to adapt to new and emerging jobs in a quickly changing global economy. Even the technical jobs in the sciences and engineering will require a Bachelors or advanced degrees or the completion of an apprenticeship program. Hence, for students to be successful in any career, we need to ensure that knowledge about careers and project-based experiences are included along with academic skills as a strong focus in all schools.

As stated earlier, our students will see many career changes in their lifetime. We also know, and it has been painful for us to see in Michigan, the days of working for one employer for 30 years is long past. So, along with strong skills in Math, Science and English, our students need quality career information. High academic standards are forcing traditional college track vs. vocational track students toward an all-students on academic track approach.

Often, students as well as their parents, read about "hot jobs" on a website and assume that is what their son or daughter should pursue—without regard for their interest or abilities. So, in addition to strong academic skills and knowledge of employers' systems, we also need to ensure that quality career and labor market information is available. Developing and publishing these documents has long been the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Labor. Maintaining and updating such documents as the Occupational Outlook Handbook and the Occupational Information Network Resource Center (O*NET) are critical if counselors are to obtain current and reliable information on these new and emerging green collar careers.

In closing I would like to reflect on what a 16 year old student told me over 35 years ago when I asked him what he wanted to do. What he said to me is as appropriate today as it was then—***"Don't ask me what I want to do until you show me what there is to do!"***

Our responsibility is to help students connect academic studies with real jobs in today's businesses. This is especially true of new or emerging occupations, including green collar jobs. Again, that is only achieved with quality career information spelling out the skills, knowledge and abilities to be successful. Counselors and workforce development professionals are dedicated to helping our youth and adults develop their full potential and realize their personal dreams. Strong academic standards must also include components for connecting academics to the real world application of information for all students.

I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for recognizing the importance of developing green collar jobs. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Thelen, very much.

And now we will turn and recognize members of the Subcommittee to ask questions. I first recognize the gentlelady from California, Ms. Solis.

Ms. SOLIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to direct my question to Ms. Barboza. Thank you for talking about some of the barriers that you face out in South Los Angeles as well as East Los Angeles. Could you describe for this Committee how you go about engaging that community, so that they also understand the kinds of opportunities or challenges that they need to be ready for, and how you help prepare them?

Ms. BARBOZA. We involve community members in policy development, and then helping to—so part of what that looks like is going door to door and talking to people about what have been the job barriers and the workforce development barriers. Lots of people have been through a job training program. Lots of people get a job training certificate, but a lot of people—but a lot of training programs are not focused around actual training programs that result in a good-paying job.

So we try to take people's experience and help to develop good training programs that are based on targeted industries that pay a high wage and a livable wage. We also do voter education as well, so to make sure that folks—and the values that we believe in and the issues that we think are important, that we take that to the ballot and we take those values to the ballot as well.

Ms. SOLIS. If you could, and this is for the whole panel, what two concrete steps could the Federal Government take to help ensure that our workforce and our communities advance with technology? And I will start with Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. Great. Well, before I get to that question, I just wanted to make sure—Mr. Sensenbrenner had asked a couple of questions that I didn't get a chance to get to in my testimony. I wanted to make sure that you feel that you are getting taken care of by this panel.

You asked what a green collar job is, and it came up on the panel as well. And there is a concern I think some people have this is just a bunch of hype, right? This is just another fancy way to package up, you know, traditional work. I want to be very clear: it is not. We are talking about new categories of work that, frankly, is stumping people who have been in the workforce for a while, let alone new entrants.

For instance, geothermal heat pump jobs. That is not traditional HVAC. That is a new category of work to get homes heated and cooled by the earth. It is almost like using antifreeze in a house, very new stuff. Solar water heaters, somebody—you asked a question, is it any different to put up a solar panel than to put up a——

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I am going to recognize Mr. Sensenbrenner——

Mr. JONES. Sure.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. In two minutes and 18 seconds.

Mr. JONES. Sorry. Okay, good.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. If you could answer Ms. Solis' question——

Mr. JONES. All right.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. That would be helpful.

Mr. JONES. That would be two concrete steps.

Number one, do not leave cities and communities out on their own to try to figure out how to turn around our public schools and our vocational schools to meet this opportunity. The Federal Government needs to put money on the table to invest in us to be able to help our kids meet these opportunities.

Number two, recognize that the new business community, the new eco-entrepreneurs, they are not as sophisticated as the established businesses. They don't know how to come interact with you and ask you for what they need. So recognize that in order to help business, the new American business, you are going to have to meet them halfway, interact with them, engage with them.

Don't assume that the voices of business that you are hearing are the voices of American business in total. There are new businesses now that need your help in a new way. Listen to them.

Mr. RINGO. This Committee is a Committee on—Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. And when you talk about what you can do, what you can do addresses both areas; one, when we talk about global warming, and we talk about work, building a workforce as a result of dealing with issues like global warming, energy independence.

We have got to—you can level the playing field with respect to the good jobs and the training for those people that have been in the past disproportionately impacted by global warming, and that is mainly the poor and the people of color.

I live in Louisiana. I am an evacuee of Hurricane Rita. And today I think it is going to be announced the activity for the upcoming hurricane season, which will probably be more active than last year. We didn't even get one that hit the United States last year. We didn't have one to do that.

But when we talk about the intensity of those storms due to global warming, and then what do we do about reducing that impact on the environment and benefit from it, we want to make sure that those people that are disproportionately impacted also can get a piece of the pie with respect to the benefits of the new jobs and what have you.

Surely, we talk about in building a green economy that there will be jobs created in retrofitted assembly lines to build hybrid cars, but poor people can't afford hybrid cars. Poor people can't afford to buy a Prius. And so, therefore, there must be legislation taking place by the gatekeepers—you, the policymakers—that are going to level the playing field and make it easier for the poor to reap the benefits of the good jobs and the training, and also not be disproportionately adversely impacted as they have been in the past.

Ms. SOLIS. So we might have to target some of that funding to these kinds of particular rural or city/inner city areas.

Mr. RINGO. Absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Sensenbrenner.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a comment for Ms. Barboza, and then a couple of questions for Mr. Ringo. Ms. Barboza, I listened to your testimony and the answers the previous questions quite carefully. And you seem to be advocating using tax dollars for community organizers, voter education program, and electoral and union organizing.

I don't think that tax dollars should be used for that purpose, because it is designed to achieve a political advantage rather than to train people to do jobs, whether it is green collar jobs or any other kind of jobs. And I would hope that you would rethink what your organization is doing, because I don't think you are helping poor people get jobs by training them to be community organizers. You may end up winning a referendum question or electing somebody, but I don't think that that is what we have in mind in terms of providing job retraining funds.

That being said, Mr. Ringo, nuclear powerplants have on average 400 to 700 jobs, depending upon how big they are, and these jobs pay an average of 36 percent higher than the average wages and salaries in local areas. Would you agree that these are green jobs, because nuclear power doesn't omit any greenhouse gases?

Mr. RINGO. Well, I believe that it is important as we go into this new green economy that we diversify our energy portfolio, but we diversify that portfolio with energy means that would not have adverse consequences to us. We don't want to switch seats on a sinking ship. And I am not saying I am anti-nuclear, but I believe that nuclear has a place on that portfolio list if we can guarantee that spent nuclear waste can be properly disposed, and we don't create adverse impacts on both the environment and people, as well as coal or other industries.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Okay.

Mr. RINGO. So sure, you can create green jobs from them, but we want to make sure that those jobs are not jobs that are going to——

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Now——

Mr. RINGO [continuing]. Equate into adverse consequences.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Now, that is fair enough. We do have a cap and trade system in existence in Europe, and one can buy carbon credits from that. The bottom has dropped out of the carbon credit market in Europe in the last six to eight months or so.

I am concerned that the thrust of your testimony appears to be that we would be financing these green trading programs on the revenue that would be obtained through carbon credits. Don't you think that is a little risky, given the volatility of the carbon credit market where it has been tried?

Mr. RINGO. Well, you are right. The carbon credit market in Europe has been challenged, and I think that we have just got to find effective ways to generate the necessary revenue that it takes to invest in research and development, but also, as I said, level the playing field.

You know, we are in our infancy with respect to what will work, and I think that it is important that organizations like myself, like Apollo Alliance and other organizations, give real considerations to, as I mentioned before, investing in ideas that will not have adverse impact on the economy or on this country as a whole. You know, if it is not working in Europe, it does not mean it is not going to

work here. But it is surely worth a try and worth the investment for us to see if we can find meaningful revenues to stimulate our economy and to level that playing field.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I have one final question, and that is on the issue of CAFE standards for autos.

Mr. RINGO. Yes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. In your statement, you mentioned you support retooling incentives for the auto industry.

Mr. RINGO. Yes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Would you support CAFE standards being higher for the auto industry without the retooling standards even though it might cost unionized autoworkers their jobs?

Mr. RINGO. Again, I am talking about a level playing field. It makes no sense to me to have standards that are going to have adverse consequences, and I believe that if—I believe that standards are important, but standards should not cost jobs.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Okay.

Mr. RINGO. And so we strongly support the idea of standards, but let us make sure that we don't create casualties as a result.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I thank the gentleman. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. Cleaver.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This has been a very interesting Committee hearing, as all of them have been thus far, and very instructive and informative. The issues that I think have been placed on the table today are ones that may be ideological as much as they are climatological, because we are actually dealing with whether or not the government has a role, and then how deeply should the government go in dealing with climate change and the industry that could be developed from it.

If we talk about—and Ms. Barboza mentioned this, I think all of you hit on it a little—if we are talking about turning loose this great American ingenuity to create another industrial age, and this time minorities would have an opportunity to participate as the door opens as opposed to as it closed at the beginning of the 20th century, but when we talk like that, what inevitably surfaces is the ideological issue, and that is, well, you know, is this a jobs program? Is this, you know, some kind of social program?

And I left the Committee hearing last week and went outside and two young men whom God loves stopped me and went off about how much of a hoax this whole issue is. And so if we are talking about taking advantage of this new technology or advancing a new technology, does it not present all kinds of issues that we have got to get beyond before we can make the kind of progress that we need?

Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. My great hope is that this is the one issue that we can be one country about. This really is the opportunity. At this point, nobody is proposing that the government is going to come in and fix it. What we are saying is we want to set our eco-entrepreneurs up to succeed. We want to give the ecological entre-

preneurs a world-class—as our colleague said, a world-class workforce, so they can meet a world-class challenge.

Now, I can't imagine that anybody here thinks that the government has no role in education. I think all of us agree that one of the great strengths of the American system is that we do have a public education system, and that we have invested in it. What I hope will happen is that we will use what we already agree on, which is that young people and displaced, our veterans coming home, deserve an opportunity to get well trained to be a part of this new opportunity. I hope that this green wave can lift all boats.

Mr. CLEAVER. I agree with you. But if we start—the moment we say it has great opportunity for minorities, for whatever reason, that also——

Mr. JONES. Well, I think that—we have now decided I think as a country that affirmative action is something we are moving away from. I think we have decided as a country that we see——

Mr. CLEAVER. Well——

Mr. JONES. I am just—I think it is unfortunate. I am a product of affirmative action. I went to college and everything else on minority scholarships, but it seems to me that that is something that we don't want anymore. It seems to me that we are concerned about welfare.

At some point, there has to be a ladder of opportunity that we hold for people. Let them climb that ladder, but there has got to be a ladder of opportunity. I think this is our best opportunity to build that ladder, and I hope that we can be one country on this. If we can't be one country on this——

Mr. CLEAVER. Let me ask—thank you. Let me ask—go ahead, Ms. Barboza.

Ms. BARBOZA. Well, put the ideological aside, I mean, I think that federal policy needs to include policy that is based on data, and that data needs to talk about creating policy based on the labor market trends. And so look at that from the climate change, energy independence way, and look at that labor market.

Do long-term planning for equitable economic development that creates quality job opportunities where there are jobs, where the are interventions that can be made, look at and support workforce development to ensure hard skills training to address the skills gap. We all know there is a skills gap in this country. Supportive services and support overall regional economic development strategy, and that is really what this is about is that this isn't just an environmental issue, but this is an economic issue, and we need to create federal policy that is based on all of those.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you. Are any of you familiar with the Chicago Climate Exchange?

Mr. JONES. None of us are experts on it, but——

Mr. CLEAVER. The truth of the matter is, we would not even be selling ethanol at the few stations in this country where it is sold but for the federal subsidy. Without the federal subsidy, this would not be anything going on in this country.

I guess the point I am making is that the Federal Government has a history of always stepping in to launch projects and programs that are in the interest of the government. And I am not—in the interest of the country. I am not suggesting that we just open up

the bank and say, you know, anybody with a green thumb come in and take as much as you can get in a wheelbarrow. But do you not believe that the Federal Government should play a major role in getting us off into a new direction with regard to green technology?

Mr. JONES. Yes.

Mr. RINGO. Absolutely. And by virtue of the opportunity, we are faced with an opportunity, as Van Jones mentioned, that we have never been faced within our history. Not only—and it is an opportunity driven by the events of our time, under the umbrella of global warming. We are seeing events associated with global warming that are unprecedented that are affecting the lives of people in a way like it never has before. Katrina was that example.

The gas prices at the gas pump are a prime example. Being held over the oil barrel by foreign governments with respect to our dependency on foreign oil is a prime example. And so this is a galvanizing issue that can galvanize America, and there could be benefits from it that puts America back to work again, stimulates our economy in a way like it has never been before. We are going to create a new green economy.

As I keep alluding to, we have just got to make it a level playing field to where all America benefits from the solutions that we are pursuing. That has not always been done in the past, but we have an opportunity to do it now. It will require some government intervention.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I have been informed that there are five roll calls on the House floor. We have time to recognize Mr. Shadegg for his questions.

Mr. SHADEGG. I will waive.

The CHAIRMAN. We can recognize, then, the gentlelady from Michigan for her time, but then we will have to recess and come back, if that would be the wish of the members, for any additional members. Would that be the wish of the Committee, to come back?

Mr. HALL. I will submit written comments.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. We will ask the indulgence of the witnesses to stay here, then, for about 25 minutes. I will return. If any members return, I will recognize them. And if they do not, then I will ask my questions, and then the hearing will end.

The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Michigan, Ms. Miller, for five minutes.

Ms. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief here.

I was just very, very pleasantly—I shouldn't say surprised, but it was pleasant to hear Mr. Ringo say that—and I wrote this down—that standards should not cost jobs. And you were responding to Mr. Sensenbrenner's question about CAFE standards, and, of course, higher CAFE standards are absolutely going to cost jobs.

And I am just wondering if you could flesh out for me a bit when you talked about supporting retooling incentives, or perhaps a question for any of you, what incentive the Federal Government could actually provide to devise some assistance for the Big Three for the auto jobs that will be lost when the higher CAFE standards happen.

Mr. RINGO. Well, when you talk about a new green economy, and surely I think when we talk about a new green economy we are talking about good jobs, but we are talking about new jobs, and there are going to be opportunities for new jobs that are going to take the place of those lost jobs.

Now, I am surely not saying that there will be an automatic major job loss because of CAFE standards. What I am saying is that there has to be a balance in that we do not overregulate ourselves to where it does cost jobs. I think that we will have to make the necessary adjustment to minimize the economic impact.

But for those that lose their jobs, we are looking at a creation of new good jobs in the area as a result of the research and development of new alternatives that would keep America working. It doesn't necessarily mean that they will keep the same jobs they have. Some people will lose jobs, but at least they won't remain unemployed. There will be new opportunities for new jobs if we promote this research and development.

And because there is a sense of urgency to do something when you talk about global warming, and the increase of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, there is a sense of urgency. We have got to respond, because we have not responded properly in the past.

Ms. MILLER. I appreciate that. So do you think it is appropriate, then, for the Federal Government to assist the Big Three as they transition from what will be most certainly a loss of jobs because of higher CAFE standards?

Mr. RINGO. I think the——

Ms. MILLER. Maybe any of you could answer.

Mr. RINGO. I think the responsibility of the American government is to assist creation of new jobs which would benefit the Big Three as well as any other job losses that occur in any field anywhere in the country.

Ms. MILLER. Do any of the rest of you have a comment on that? Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, this is a tough one, obviously. I think two things. One, it is really not clear to me—and I am not being ideological about it. It is really not clear to me that the CAFE standard, changing that is going to cost jobs. I know that people are trying desperately to buy hybrids, they are trying desperately to buy more fuel efficient cars. I think that we could be actually, you know, seeing a renaissance for Detroit by giving Detroit the encouragement to do what really I think there is a pent-up market demand for anyway, number one.

Number two——

Ms. MILLER. "The encouragement" meaning the Federal Government encouraging them?

Mr. JONES. Yes, ma'am. Yes.

Ms. MILLER. So you are talking about federal——

Mr. JONES. At this point, we are talking sort of in theoretical terms. So I am saying that I just want to challenge gently your assumption that changing the CAFE standards would create huge dropoffs. I am not convinced that that is true. It could be true; it could not be true. I just want to challenge it gently.

But the other point I want to make is simply this. Detroit is hurting. The health care bills that the Big Three are carrying are

tremendous. I don't—they get kind of termed as a political football. To me, Detroit is not a political football. I have got family there.

I think that we have got to do a better job of helping Detroit deal with some of these legacy costs, help Detroit catch up to where I think the pent-up market demand is. Now, how we help, we may disagree, but I like the idea of health care, you know, for hybrids, that kind of a tradeoff where we maybe help Detroit with some of their health care costs if they are willing to transition over.

We have got to be smarter about how we partner with our business community, both the new eco-entrepreneurs and those existing businesses that want to go in the green direction. I don't have the final answer on that, but I do think that we should not retreat into ideological camps on this. It is too important for working people in Detroit.

Ms. MILLER. You know, just one other question, and, Mr. Thelen, I appreciate you being here as well. But it is—I think it is clear from all of the studies, at least all of the domestic autos believe it, the United Auto Workers believe that they will—this will cost a huge job loss. Are you working with the UAW to assist some of these displaced auto workers which are just about to happen here with these higher CAFE standards, thousands, hundreds of thousands perhaps?

Mr. THELEN. Yes. I have spent the last 15 years of my life working with UAW in one capacity. We have developed world-class training programs with them, and, really, have worked with a lot of UAW folks as they go into—as they go through a transition. It is very difficult.

They have been used to a lifestyle, in terms of a wage, and it is hard for many of these people to understand that there is a different market out there than what they have been involved with for 25 years in terms of what they—how the market values their skill set. And so the only way they will get back up is if they increase their skills.

The CHAIRMAN. I apologize to the gentlelady. I wanted to——

Ms. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I wanted to give Mr. Hall just two minutes, so he could ask his question, and then that is all the time we will have left.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Two minutes.

Mr. HALL. Just quickly, I have had a number of conversations with the UAW folks in my neck of the woods who are—who share the opinion that I hold, which is that the decisions made by management have drastically hurt the American auto industry. And believe me, it is struggling without our giving them any further encouragement or direction.

I think that it would help if they were encouraged to make the kind of cars that their own employees would like to drive, not what the Madison Avenue power and speed and sexiness lobby and the whole advertising business wants them to try to sell us.

I also wanted to comment regarding nuclear power being green. I hold that it is not. It is not renewable, it is not green, it is not new, it is not alternative. It is a 50-year-old technology, and were it not for giant subsidies from this government, including insuring

every nuclear plant, the taxpayer insures via the Price Anderson Act every nuclear plant in the country, there would never have been a single plant built, because they can't stand up in the market.

And they still can't stand up in the market, so I personally—I have one in my district that is leaking strontium-90 and tritium into the—not just the groundwater and the Hudson River but now into the sewer system of the town of Buchanan where the plant sits. So that is supposedly a closed system.

If it can leak into the sewer system, which just came out last week, and possibly into the water system, into people's wells, and so on, and we don't need terrorism when we have got leaking nuclear plants in our neighborhoods, not to mention the fact that Mohammad Atta wrote about this plant as a potential target in papers that were found after 9/11.

So I look forward to what I think will be a development across the board from high-tech all the way to low-tech installation of passive solar and that sort of thing.

And I thank the Chairman for the time.

The CHAIRMAN. Great. The gentleman's time has expired.

There are three minutes left on the House floor for this roll call. The hearing will recess for about 20 minutes, and we will come back. If any members wish to ask questions, please come back at that time.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for sticking around. The unpredictability of the House floor schedule is something that is ultimately an adjustment that each of us has to make to our own lives, and the vagaries are so unpredictable they do lead to discomfort not only for witnesses and for those in the audience, but also for the members of Congress themselves. We will let it stay there.

We will now turn—and I will recognize myself for a round of questions for five minutes. If any members come, then they will be recognized. And if they don't, that will be the conclusion of the hearing.

For all the witnesses, we have seen a number of analyses projecting large numbers of jobs that the green economy can create. From your work in your communities, what policies are needed to make green collar jobs live up to their potential? Mr. Thelen?

Mr. THELEN. I think the first thing we have to do is—and I am coming from a background of working in workforce development and career development—is help all of us practitioners understand what is the skill set necessary for these green jobs. How are we going to communicate to people the difference between these green jobs and a traditional job, i.e., let us say a construction worker? How are we going to help that construction worker know what additional set of skills they need to function in this new environment? And one of the roles of the Federal Government should be is to provide us good data on these emerging jobs.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Jones, do you think because Germany and Japan don't have any oil or natural gas that their adoption of this green collar agenda is something that comes more naturally to them, but here in America, the oil, the gas, the coal industry,

serves as a powerful counterbalance, so that we don't make the transition and ultimately we could lose these job opportunities to other countries?

Mr. JONES. You know, American exceptionalism is always a mystery in any number of directions. So it is hard for me to know. What I do know is that the opportunity that we have for——

The CHAIRMAN. I think you do know, Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. Okay. Well——

[Laughter.]

Mr. JONES [continuing]. Not in the time that we have remaining. A couple of things which were raised earlier and weren't fully addressed, just to make sure that we get them. Number one, the workforce development stuff does need to have business and labor and community at the table. Number two, each community will be different. The green economy in North Carolina will look very difficult than it looks in California, and so we do need to make sure that each community is able to design its own strategy with support from the Federal Government.

The CHAIRMAN. Great.

Ms. Barboza, what is the single biggest problem in your mind in ensuring that these jobs actually get to the workers who are the next generation of blue collar/green collar workers? In your mind, what is the single biggest obstacle?

Ms. BARBOZA. I think workforce development, training and workforce development dollars. So I think that a lot of—the question right now is: who pays, right? So is it the employer? Is it the government? Is it the workers or the unemployed themselves?

So I think that that is really one of the biggest—it is going to take some time to do, and that is one of the biggest barriers is thinking through a workforce development strategy that is in collaboration with a larger economic strategy or with a regional economic strategy.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Thelen, you are from Michigan?

Mr. THELEN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. There are obviously a large pool of skilled manufacturing workers there. Have you seen any gravitational pull towards Michigan, trying to take advantage of these manufacturing job skills that already exist in terms of new companies starting up there and trying to move into these new energy technologies?

Mr. THELEN. Yes, we have. Just two days ago there was a large article in our State Journal, Lansing State Journal, our paper, talking about a manufacturing company that had been aggressive and they make housings for cars, parts for cars, and they were just awarded a contract that would allow them to hire 200 people because they are now making—they are making the same types of parts for large wind farms. And so we have seen that.

We have also seen a large company that is now—or a startup company that is making special shingles that can be used for solar energy. So we are starting to see that. I think it is a difficult transition for some of us.

The CHAIRMAN. Here is what I am going to do. I am going to give each one of you one minute to summarize what you want the Subcommittee—the Select Committee on Energy Independence and

Global Warming to know about your testimony and what you want us to retain in our minds as we are moving forward this year.

Mr. Jones, whenever you are ready, please begin.

Mr. JONES. Thank you. First, I want to enter into the record these two reports. One is called Community Jobs in the Green Economy. That was done by the Apollo Alliance and Urban Habitat, for which I wrote the forward. And the other is New Energy for Cities, also by the Apollo Alliance. This really answers many of the questions that came up, and I just want to make sure they are——

The CHAIRMAN. So in a way, I didn't make a mistake. You are being Mr. Ringo right now.

Mr. JONES. Exactly. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be entered in the record.

And let me then recognize you, Mr. Jones.

Mr. JONES. Good, thank you so much. So, and I am happy to do that for him.

The other things I think are important—I think that we need a paradigm shift in our discussion about environmental solutions. The first shift is away from talking about environmental problems, talking about environmental solutions more, which I think we are well on the way to. But the other is to think every environmental solution that comes across your radar screen, if you would subject it to the lens, where are the jobs, how can we use this to increase jobs for poor people, wealth-building opportunities, entrepreneurial opportunities for poor people, improve health for poor people?

If we just begin to apply that lens to the entire discussion, I think it will radically transform the way that the public as a whole relates to this. Eco-elitism, for lack of a better term, will not save this country. Eco-populism, as a strategy that says we are going to pull the country together to solve the toughest problem ever, finally unleash American ingenuity on this problem, to your earlier point, I think is a majoritarian strategy for uniting the country.

The CHAIRMAN. So eco-elitism, bad.

Mr. JONES. Eco-populism——

The CHAIRMAN. Eco-populism, good.

Mr. JONES. Good.

The CHAIRMAN. And eco-entrepreneurs, excellent.

Mr. JONES. Excellent.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Barboza.

Ms. BARBOZA. I also want to enter into the record three different studies on training in the sectorial industries, and looking at—so three things. One is we have a study coming out called Green Cities, Green Jobs that is going to look at Los Angeles as a case study. Also, as a case study to look at policy financing.

We also have another study called Under the Line that looks at L.A. employment and the training needs for Los Angeles communities, as well as lessons from a Career First Program, which brought together public sector jobs with people on assistance. And those are models that we can learn from and do large—have a larger impact on the work that we are doing now with green jobs and the green industry.

I just want you to know that the decisions, the federal policy, the discussions that are happening right now impact real lives and impact real families and on a very large scale. So we have the opportunity to do something here that is going to change generations, and just as the manufacturing industry did for our generation and our communities. And so I would just ask you to think big.

The CHAIRMAN. Will do. Thank you, Ms. Barboza.

And you have the final word, Mr. Thelen.

Mr. THELEN. Thank you. It will be short. I think the—I will go back to I think what the Federal Government should be doing is bringing together this information and ensuring those of us who work in the field have a clear understanding of, number one, what do we mean by green jobs, and, number two, what is the next step? What is the call to action that we in the field should be doing to help our young people understand these new opportunities? Because they are the ones who are going to benefit the most from this, and so that is what I would hope.

I don't like my information to come from a biased source. I trust the information that comes out by labor market individuals, and that is what I would like to see.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank you, Mr. Thelen. I think you are right on the money. I think our panel is right on the money. We are at the dawn of a revolution. Actually, it has already begun, and it is driven by the green generation. This younger generation does understand it. They do understand that it is a huge issue that we have to deal with and that the solutions are available. Our job is to make this transition in an effective way.

When the old economy was dying in Ireland, my young grandparents got on a boat and headed for the United States of America, right into the mills of this Industrial Revolution that was unfolding. But it kept moving along. Different resolutions just kept succeeding it.

And so now it is our job not only to create this revolution, put in place the policies that make it possible for it to unfold in a telescope timeframe, but also prepare the workers of the country, so that we can move them in and so that we can capture the lion's share of the opportunity, which the global economy is going to present, because I think that this is going to become a global revolution, and we should be the leader and our workers should be the principal beneficiaries across the planet.

We thank each of you for your testimony, and any other comments you wish to add will be included in the record.

And with that, and with the thanks of the Committee, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:21 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

Van Jones, J.D.
President, Green For All
Oakland, California

Responses to questions from the Honorable James Sensenbrenner

Thursday, January 13, 2009

1) **Why is the need for a "green job" significantly more important than a need for a job?**

We consider green jobs to be most typically existing occupations that are upgraded and upskilled to better respect the environment. We believe that jobs which simultaneously provide family-supporting wages and career tracks, and help increase our energy independence and reduce GHG emissions, thus saving the planet from climate catastrophe, are more important and worthy of policy support than those that do not. From a global competition standpoint, green jobs present an important growth opportunity for the United States.

2) **There are a lot of job training programs out there already, so how do you think potential "green jobs" will do more to help urban youth than we already do? Or what is different about your program that will entice urban youth to take advantage of it?**

Green For All is not a training provider; we are not trying to recruit urban youth into training programs for green occupations. But we support policies that invest in programs to do so, many of which are existing programs that do what good training programs are supposed to do: respond to employer demand in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other green industries. Jobs in these industries can do more to help urban youth by providing career pathways, by reducing pollutants that disproportionately impact poor people of color, and by fighting global warming, which threatens their future with catastrophe.

3) **You mentioned solar panels and weatherization as potential job areas, and I agree that they are good ideas. Would you support tax credits for those who want to do these installations, which would in turn provide the job to the person who learns how to install them?**

Tax credits can be useful if designed well, but they shouldn't be considered a silver bullet. It was encouraging to see the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 extend the residential energy efficiency tax credit for building insulation, windows, doors, roofs, and efficient appliances and extend the tax credits for qualified solar water heating and solar photovoltaic systems. But one of the disadvantages of using the tax credit vehicle is that it offers no benefit to tens of millions of low and moderate income families unless it is refundable, because they actually owe little or no income tax.

4) **On the issue of wind farms, while I agree they are an interesting renewable, I am surprised that this came up in an urban discussion. Are you talking more about manufacturing the parts for the windmills?**

Manufacturing component parts for wind turbines offers enormous job opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

5) **On the issue of starting a new program for job training, I am not keen on starting new programs. Have you done any work with your state to use**

funds that they currently receive to be sure that "green jobs" are part of their job training curriculum?

Green For All does work with state policymakers and encourages them to use both federal and state funds, where they exist, for green job training, as long as there is demonstrable employer demand. But one of the challenges of using existing federal funding is that it has been cut so significantly in recent years. Since the first budget submitted by the Bush Administration, funding for key employment and training programs at DOL has been cut 27% in constant dollars through FY2008.

6) **I appreciate that you brought up China and India needing to use clean energy. I agree with you and want to emphasize that as we look at global warming policy that we keep jobs in the U.S., not give them the incentive to move overseas. Would you agree that this should be a goal of any legislation we consider?**

Certainly, which is why we need global warming legislation that includes strong border adjustment mechanisms.

7) **Why should the federal government fund programs, such as spending $120 million for teach workers to install solar panels, when private entities such as the IBEW Local 103 has developed a similar program?**

Private sector entities, most notably businesses, do engage in training, but they do not provide training to those who are not linked to employment, such as dislocated or unemployed workers. And they do not provide enough training, as they are constrained by cost and concerns that the workers they train will be recruited by competitors. Union apprenticeship programs supported by labor-management funds are some of the best training programs in the country, but there are significant challenges in preparing people, particularly low-income people with low levels of education and skills, to qualify for these programs. There's an important role for public investment here that could leverage

these private labor-management funds. In fact, the Green Jobs Act is designed to do just that.

8) **Do you support cap and trade legislation that will increase the cost of gasoline up to $1?**

Green For All supports cap and invest legislation that makes investments in building an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. With respect to the impact of such legislation on gas prices, a study of last year's Climate Security Act by the Energy Information Administration projected that an emissions cap would add about 42 cents a gallon (in inflation adjusted terms) to the price of gasoline by 2030. That rise over a twenty year period is much less than the rise in prices in the spring of 2007 alone, when gasoline prices soared $1.10. The bottom line is that skyrocketing demand, increasingly limited supply and Mideast politics have much more effect on gas prices than climate policy could ever have. In addition, wise investment strategies in areas such as efficiency measure and advanced automotive technology should be designed to ultimately lower the costs of gasoline and electricity for consumers.

9) **The American Jobs Creation Act provides a tax credit of up to $1.00 per gallon for the sale and use of "agri-biodiesel" -- biodiesel from virgin agricultural products. The credit is $0.50 per gallon for biodiesel from recycled grease. In addition, the law provides an excise tax credit for biodiesel blends (i.e., biodiesel and conventional diesel). Producers are eligible for one credit or the other, but not both. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extends these credits through 2008. Do you support making these credits permanent? Do you support increasing these credits?**

I'm unfamiliar with the details of the American Jobs Creation Act, but there is considerable analysis that casts doubt on the effectiveness and net energy balance of currently produced biofuels as an ecologically sound alternative to fossil fuels. I believe

that the best use of new federal resources in the biofuels arena is to support the technological development and commercial viability of cellulosic ethanol, which holds great promise for GHG reduction and economic development in this country, particularly in rural areas.

10) Do you support expanding Enterprise Zones to attract green collar jobs?

Enterprise Zones and other place-based tax subsidies have a mixed and difficult to determine track record of success. A serious hindrance is getting detailed IRS data on the use of these kinds of tax benefits. Rather than further expanding tax subsides of uncertain impact as a vehicle of green economic development, Green For All is far more interested in adding green criteria to the broad range of existing economic development programs. We recently co-issued a report, Uncle Sam's Rusty Toolkit, that analyzed a number of the federal government's largest economic development programs and showed how we can modernize these programs to reduce global warming pollution and energy costs; create opportunity for workers without cars by promoting transit-accessible workplaces; and boost demand for "green-collar" skills and jobs in energy efficiency by incenting green building practices in both new and existing facilities.

Ms. Ali Brodsky
Chief Clerk
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Dear Ms. Brodsky:

Below are my responses to the questions you e-mailed me on June 12, 2007.

1) What do you think the biggest challenges are for retraining blue collar workers, such as auto workers, to do more high tech jobs - particular those that might seem to change their career path?

Some of the challenges facing our workers who have or will be laid off include:

- Lack of basic skills—many workers lack basic skills in reading and math and/or lack high school diplomas
- Understanding of the labor market and how to use labor market information.
- Understanding how skills used in the auto industry can be utilized in a new job—i.e. transferable skills.
- Fear of starting over in a new career and failing. For many individuals laid off in the auto industry the only job they ever had was a "factory job." Thinking about a new career may be traumatic.

2) As a career educator, are you concerned about the need for more math and science education in schools to be sure that young people are more prepared for higher tech jobs in the future?

Yes. In Michigan we have initiated new educational standards that require all students to have three years of science and four years of math education. The new standards apply to all students—those considering enrolling in four-year universities and students pursuing a technical education—and are a step in the right direction for Michigan education. We know student's graduating in 2007 will have 6-8 different careers throughout their lives. To be prepared for these career changes individuals must possess a strong set of basic skills in addition to technical skills. We need to ensure students understand their future involves being a life long learner; otherwise, they may be left behind in the job market.

3) Are you concerned about workers who may get "left behind" because of poor education opportunities, limited abilities or other skill challenges as more and more jobs become "green jobs" some of which will require higher levels of training?

Workers who have limited abilities or other skill challenges will be left behind for all jobs—not just "green jobs." There is nothing unique about "green jobs" requiring higher levels of training. All sectors of the economy—manufacturing, health care, construction, and insurance require their employees to have a strong set of skills and as indicated above, understand the need to be life long learners.

4) Can you talk a little bit about the one-stop concept that Michigan uses for job training assistance?

The one-stop concept is meant to help eliminate barriers to employment for customers by making access to the various tools of job searching available and convenient. One-stop centers throughout the country house everything from Federal programs, to public computers and telephones for customer use, to academic advisors with community colleges and other institutes of higher learning so customers can sign up for training without leaving the building. Many customers of the public workforce system lack reliable transportation, so one-stops bring all of the services together under one roof.

5) Should the federal government create new job training programs for green jobs such a construction jobs, when it seems that the skill set already exist for current construction jobs?

Rather than creating new training programs, I recommend better utilizing the existing systems and infrastructure in place. In my research, most of what we call green jobs involves people taking and existing set of skills and applying them in a "green environment." One way to better connect job seekers to the "green economy" would be to ensure quality career information is available on this emerging sector. Career facilitators and others who help clients also need education on the field and how to understand how clients' interests and abilities can be translated into green jobs.

6) In your opinion, should the federal government instead of concentrating on green jobs, instead focus on traditional programs that encourage people to enter the science and engineering fields such as the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act?

The Federal government, workforce agencies and schools should ensure they have quality career programs which allow students to explore all careers that match student interests and abilities and align with private sector demands. I think it is the federal government's role to ensure we have a well-educated workforce that can adapt to various work environments. As I indicated in my testimony, we should not just focus our attention on the current "hot jobs" but ensure both students and adults have an opportunity to explore all job areas within their interest and abilities. During my career I have seen many examples of students who are "recruited" into careers and later realize they have neither the skills nor interest to pursue these careers. There are many growing sectors in the American economy, and our focus cannot be "one or the other." Rather, we must take up the challenge of preparing students for all of the key sectors – such as mathematics, engineering, science, healthcare and information technology – and look for areas where collaboration and partnerships may be beneficial.

7) Can you talk a little bit about your partnership with community colleges and the important role that they play in job training?

Capital Area Michigan Works! shares a strong partnership with out local community college. Lansing Community College has three academic advisors housed at Capital Area Michigan Works! Lansing Service Center. College staff advise and enroll students in career and training programs, as well as work with case managers and other career advisors operating Federal and State workforce programs to ensure the case managers and career advisors are knowledgeable about education programs available for students. The college also partners with Capital Area Michigan Works! in serving the private sector through the creation and operation of four industry-focused councils – the Capital Area Manufacturing Council, the Capital Healthcare & Employment Council, the Capital Area Construction Council and the Capital Area Information Technology Council. Each council works with workforce, education, economic development and industry partners to recognize and address the workforce needs of that particular sector. The councils meet at Lansing Community College to better connect the industries with existing training available for incumbent workers, as well as for the pipeline of future workers. The college is also engaged on Capital Area Michigan Works!' Workforce Development Board, its Educational Advisory Group – Career Connections – and in an ongoing community service effort called, "Keep Learning… Our Future Depends On It."

8) Mr. Thelen - in Mr. Jones' statement, he says that "Congress must realign our workforce development and job training dollars - to give ordinary Americans a shot at life-long careers in this growing part of the U.S. Economy." What do you think of that statement?

Again, I don't believe there is anything unique about "green jobs." Green jobs are the result of the evolution of a number of industries, and like green jobs, many new occupations will be created as all industries evolve.

In my eyes, the government's key focus in preparing individuals for green jobs, and all in-demand occupations, is:

- To ensure displaced workers have access to necessary training to help them change careers and update their skills,
- To ensure the K-12 system is aligned with the demands and projected demands of the American labor market so our students have real career opportunities in the future,
- To stress to traditional and non-traditional students that learning is a life-long process that cannot stop at high school graduation, and
- To ensure there is quality career and Labor Market Information regarding green jobs, and all in-demand occupations, to ensure individuals making career decisions, and the people that consult them, are knowledgeable and realistic about career opportunities.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Thelen

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco

Gavin Newsom

May 22, 2007

The Honorable Edward Markey, Chairman
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
H2-250 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Markey:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter to you today. Let me begin by commending the Committee for holding this hearing to focus on the workforce opportunities being created by the growth of environmental industries. It is important to dispel the misconception that environmental initiatives undermine economic growth; many environmental initiatives create job growth. I am writing you to describe how San Francisco is developing workforce opportunities for green collar jobs.

The environmental industries that are experiencing major job growth include green building, energy efficiency retrofit and service, and renewable energies such as wind, solar and biofuels. Being service intensive, these industries produce high quality jobs that are less vulnerable to outsourcing than most manufacturing based industries. Photovoltaic and wind energy are estimated to produce 40% more jobs as coal when producing an equal amount of energy.

The City of San Francisco is supporting the growth of the green collar workforce through our Clean Tech Industry Initiative, which coordinates the City's energy policy with economic development. As Mayor, I have convened a Clean Tech Advisory Council and hired a Clean Tech Manager to enable green industry development and identify green collar job opportunities.

The City has set a goal of eliminating 360 MW of our electric load from fossil fuel generation through the adoption of energy efficiency, distributed generation and renewable energy. These goals will be met through a combination of revenue bonds, power purchase agreements and policies that encourage the private sector investment. The City is using this major energy development plan to attract clean tech companies by including a bidding preference for local producers.

To further develop the green building industry, the City has set policies that require all municipal buildings to be built to LEED Silver specifications, and to fast track the permitting process for all private sector buildings built to LEED Silver specifications.

Using these policies and procurement projects, the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development is actively recruiting clean tech companies to locate operations in San Francisco. We offer a clean tech payroll tax exemption as an incentive, and help companies take advantage of Enterprise Zone tax credits. We inform companies that they can take advantage of up to

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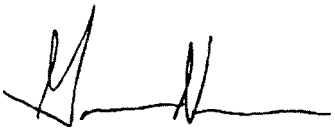
$33,944 in state and federal tax incentives per employee meeting Enterprise/Empowerment Zone qualifications.

The industry development strategy is coordinated with workforce development by working with the companies to identify their workforce development needs and ensuring that local job training programs provide skills necessary to fill these new roles. The green building and energy efficiency industries' needs are met with San Francisco's Citybuild program, which trains residents in construction trades. Solar installation job opportunities are met through the local electrical union training program, which offers an emphasis on solar development. San Francisco has found that integrating green collar job workforce development focus into the general trades training programs makes the most efficient use of City resources, while preparing workers for a range of job development opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information on San Francisco's efforts to create and sustain green collar jobs. I look forward to working with you to further develop these important initiatives in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Mayor of San Francisco

Cc: Ranking Member James Sensenbrenner

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