

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND A HEALTHY CLIMATE

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## HEARING BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND A HEALTHY CLIMATE

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

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

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:42 a.m. in Room 1100, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Edward J. Markey [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representative Markey.

Staff Present: Mitchell Robinson.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning. Today, the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming will receive testimony from five representatives of a youth movement that is demanding to be heard and deserves to be heard, not only just by Members of Congress but by decisionmakers young and old in business, in government and in town meetings and city halls and not just in the United States and in the developed world but also in developing countries, in Africa and South America and in India and China. It echoes movements of the past, but it is all about the future.

This time, young people are standing together as one force asking for action, action from our government that will ensure a clean energy and a healthy climate future. Adults sometimes have a hard time listening to people younger than they, but, in this case, it is the youth of the world that have the most standing to be heard. When the world science community says that the planet is heating up dangerously as a result of global warming pollution, they are talking about the future of the people in this room.

On Saturday and Sunday, over 5,500 student activists and youth leaders, the pulse of a new politics and new direction, gathered at the University of Maryland to push forth solutions to the real threat of our climate and energy crisis. I am told that it was the largest conference ever held in the United States on climate change.

These young people, representing every single congressional district, are our future, a future that is imperiled by efforts of climate change and energy policies that are built on cheap oil and imported oil. They speak for millions of other young people with the same concerns.

In a recent survey conducted in February of 2007, 81 percent of young adults recognized that global warming is real. We as a government and as a Nation are faced with a decision, will we act now

to ensure a clean energy and healthy climate future for the prosperity, security and health of future generations?

The goal is to cap the world's carbon emissions at levels that will keep temperatures from rising dangerously. The Congress is considering legislation that would accomplish that goal. I am the cosponsor of legislation that would require the United States to reduce emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, and it is clear to me that anything less than an 80 percent goal for 2050 is compromising the future. When it comes to the future of the children of this world, we cannot afford less.

But the Congress needs to be educated about this subject and then educated again and again. That is partly why Speaker Pelosi formed the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, because she wanted at least one panel here in Congress to be spending full time on this subject, pressing for action every day of every week.

She also demanded that the House pass an energy bill that got us started with dealing with these issues, even before we reached the issue of capping carbon; and we haven't done that. In the next 6 weeks, the House and Senate will take some very key votes on the energy bill, testing whether we have the wisdom to adopt tough new standards for automobiles and buildings and electricity generation and cellulosic ethanol that moves us away from an old energy agenda. If these votes go well, we will have the momentum we need to push ahead on a cap option and trade bill that will truly transform our energy world. We cannot do less than pass this energy bill.

But we want more, much more; and if we are to stop global warming we must do it soon. This is our chance and this is our time to fix the policies that now threaten the planet. So there could not be a better time to hear from our witnesses today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Markey follows:]



**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING**

**Opening Statement for Edward J. Markey (MA-07)  
“Youth Leadership for Clean Energy and a Healthy Climate”  
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming  
November 4, 2007**

Good morning.

Today the Select Committee received testimony from 5 representatives of a youth movement that is demanding to be heard and deserves to be heard, not just by members of Congress, but by decision makers young and old – in business, in government, in town meetings and city halls, and not just in the United States and the developed world, but also in developing countries in Africa and South America, and in India and China. It echoes movements of the past, but it is all about the future. This time young people are standing together as one force asking for action; action from our government that will ensure a clean energy and healthy climate future.

Adults sometimes have a hard time listening to people younger than they, but in this case, it is the youth of the world that have the most standing to be heard. When the world’s science community says that the planet is heating up dangerously as a result of global warming pollution, they are talking about the future of the people in this room.

On Saturday and Sunday, over 5,500 student activist and youth leaders--the pulse of a new politics and new direction--gathered at the University of Maryland to push forth solutions to the real threat of our climate and energy crisis. I am told that it was the largest conference ever held in the United States on climate change. These young people, representing every single congressional district are our future—a future that is imperiled by effects of climate change and energy policies built on cheap coal and imported oil.

They speak for millions of other young people with the same concerns. In a recent survey conducted in February of 2007, 81 percent of young adults recognized that global warming is “real”. We as a government, and as a nation are faced with a decision—“will we act NOW to ensure a clean energy and healthy climate future for the prosperity, security, and health of future generation?”

The goal is to cap the world’s carbon emissions at levels that will keep temperatures from rising dangerously. The Congress is considering legislation that would accomplish that goal. I am a cosponsor of legislation that would require the United States to reduce emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, and it is clear to me that anything less than an 80 percent goal for 2050 is compromising the future of our children. When it comes to the future of our children we can’t afford less.

But the Congress needs to be educated about this subject, and then educated again, and again. That is partly why Speaker Pelosi formed the Select Committee, because she wanted at least one panel here in Congress to be spending full-time on this subject, pressing for action every day of every week. She also demanded that the House pass an Energy bill that got us started dealing with these issues even before we reached the issue of capping carbon, and we haven't done that. In the next 6 weeks the House and the Senate will take some very key votes on the Energy bill, testing whether we have the wisdom to adopt tough new standards for automobiles and buildings and electricity generation and cellulosic ethanol that moves us away from the old energy agenda. If these votes go well, we will have the momentum we need to push ahead on a cap-auction-and trade bill that will truly transform our energy world. *We cannot do less than pass this energy bill, but we want more -- much more -- if we are to stop global warming.*

This is our chance and this is our time to fix the policies that now threaten the planet. So there couldn't be a better time to hear from you.



**STATEMENTS OF BILLY PARISH, CO-FOUNDER, ENERGY ACTION COALITION; BRITTANY R. COCHRAN, MEMBER, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE; CHERYL LOCKWOOD, MEMBER, ALASKA YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION; KATELYN McCORMICK, OFFICER, STUDENTS PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDENTS; AND MIKE REAGAN, BOARD MEMBER, CALIFORNIA PIRG**

The CHAIRMAN. Let me turn and recognize our first witness.

Our first witness is Mr. Billy Parish, the co-founder and coordinator of the Energy Action Coalition and one of the foremost young leaders of the environmental movement. Since founding the Energy Action Coalition, Mr. Parish has helped to turn the idea of bringing colleges across the country together to improve our environment into a reality. Rolling Stone called Billy a climate hero, and Mother Jones magazine names Billy as the student activist of the year.

Welcome, Mr. Parish. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

**STATEMENT OF BILLY PARISH**

Mr. PARISH. Thank you, Chairman Markey, for inviting us here today.

I want to also thank you and Speaker Pelosi for addressing PowerShift on Saturday night and for your leadership over the past 30 years on these critical issues.

I want to finally recognize the thousands of young people today standing shoulder to shoulder for the largest climate lobby day in U.S. history. Remember, remember the 5th of November.

An unstoppable movement has taken root in every school and every community in this Nation. A generation has come to Washington today to lead, to be heard and to find allies in this Congress who are ready to do what is necessary to solve our climate crisis.

My name is Billy Parish; and I am the coordinator of the Energy Action Coalition, a diverse alliance of 46 organizations working to support and strengthen the student and youth clean energy movement in the U.S. and Canada, to create change for a clean, efficient, just and renewable energy future. I have brought with me our Coalition's youth statement of principles on climate and energy and other supporting documents for the Congressional Record.

We come here today with three demands for Congress:

One, create five million new jobs through a clean energy corps to weatherize, solarize, rewire and rebuild this country. Let us put people to work and create green pathways out of poverty. Green jobs now. Green jobs now. Green jobs now. Green jobs now. Green jobs now.

Two, cut carbon at least 80 percent by 2050, 30 percent by 2020 and auction 100 percent of the pollution allowances from day one. Science tells us we can aim for nothing else. 80 by 50. 80 by 50. 80 by 50.

Three, pass an immediate moratorium on the construction of new coal plants. We should shift all Federal subsidies from fossil fuels and nuclear to wind and solar and create a just transition for workers from the old economy into the new green economy. No coal. No new coal. No new coal.

We will be heard because, at 50 million strong, the millennial generation outnumbers even the baby boomers by 3 million and represents the single largest demographic age group in this country. Polling data, recent voter turnout and the swelling ranks of an increasing coordination of the youth climate movement all demonstrate that this young generation is engaged and ready to carry out a historic power shift. Youth turnout in the past two elections hit the highest level in at least 20 years and is only on the rise.

We are not alone. Youth are assembling coalitions that are bringing together a diverse and powerful set of allies, including unions, businesses, people of faith, farmer, civil rights groups, and many more.

And we are not just here in D.C. We are in every congressional district in America, and we are organizing.

Politicians would be wise to take note. Exactly one year from today, we will have a new Congress and a new President. You have 1 year to prove that you are worthy of being our representatives in this government, and if you don't you will need to look for a new job as millions of young voters throw their support behind more progressive and pro-environment candidates committed to ending the climate crisis and protecting future generations.

We will be heard because we are the ones that we have been waiting for. As the Bush administration and our Federal government has done almost nothing for the last 7 years, young people have organized and made change. Through the Campus Climate Challenge, tens of thousands of young people have engaged in the hard work of making their schools models of sustainability for the rest of society.

In just the last year, 426 colleges have committed to becoming climate neutral; and more sign on every day. We are building partnerships with community groups to block the construction of new coal-fired power plants and launch a green wave of urban and rural renewal.

As our government abandoned the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands of young people dropped everything to serve and rebuild. Over 6,000 of us came to PowerShift this weekend. Thousands more took part in Step It Up across the country.

We are a generation of solutions, but we know we cannot do it alone and have come to seek your help. And we will be heard because we are quite literally fighting for our lives. This can no longer be a political issue. For the survival of our people and our planet, we must put aside partisan politics and come together as human, as mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers to heal ourselves and our planet.

This is no small task. As Yvonne Peter told us on Saturday night, this is not only an ecological and economic crisis. It is a spiritual and cultural crisis that is centuries old. We must begin the long process of reconciliation with the original peoples of this land, with the people that were brought here against their will, especially those from Africa and all the people who are poorly served by our society. We cannot sacrifice communities for our over-consumption today, not only because it is wrong for those commu-

nities today, but because we will be sacrificing the basis of life for our children and future generations.

I am 26 years old and about to become a father. I implore the Members of this 110th Congress to hear our demands. But I ask that you hear them not only as politicians but also as mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers. We can do this if we work together, but we must begin today.

Green jobs now. Green jobs now. Green jobs now. Green jobs now.

80 by 50. 80 by 50. 80 by 50. 80 by 50.

No coal. No new coal. No new coal.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Parish.

[The statement of Mr. Parish follows:]

**Testimony Prepared for The Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence  
Billy Parish, November 5th, 2007**

Thank you, Chairman Markey, for inviting us here today.

Remember, remember, the 5th of November. An unstoppable movement has taken root in every school and every community in this nation. A generation has come to Washington today to lead, to be heard, and to find allies in this Congress who are ready to do what is necessary to solve our climate crisis. My name is Billy Parish, and I'm the coordinator of the Energy Action Coalition, a diverse alliance of 46 organizations working to support and strengthen the student and youth clean energy movement in the U.S. and Canada to create change for a clean, efficient, just and renewable energy future. I have brought with me our coalition's "Youth Statement of Principles on Climate and Energy" and a number of other supporting documents and reports for the Congressional record.

We come here today with three demands for Congress:

1. Create 5 million new jobs through a Clean Energy Corps to weatherize, solarize, rewire and rebuild this country. Green Jobs Now!
2. Cut Carbon at least 80% by 2050, 30% by 2020 and auction 100% of the pollution allowances from day 1. 80 by 50!
3. Pass an immediate moratorium on the construction of new coal plants. No Coal!

We will be heard because at 80 million strong, the Millennial generation outnumbers even the Baby Boomers by 3 million and represents the single-largest demographic age group in this country. Polling data, recent voter turnout, and the swelling ranks and increasing coordination of the youth climate movement all demonstrate that this young generation is engaged and ready to carry out a historic Power Shift. We are razing the old stereotypes of the apathetic, unengaged youth, as youth turnout in the past two elections hit the highest level in at least 20 years. Politicians would be wise to take note. Exactly one year from today, we will have a new Congress and a new President. You have one year to prove that you are worthy of being our "representatives" in this government – and if you don't, you will need to look for a new job, as millions of young voters throw their support behind more progressive, pro-environment candidates committed to ending the climate crisis and protecting the future of our generation.

We will be heard because we are the ones we've been waiting for. As the Bush Administration and our federal government has done almost nothing for the last seven years, young people have organized and made change. Through the Campus Climate Challenge, tens of thousands of young people have engaged in the hard work of making their schools models of sustainability for the rest of society. In just the last year, 426 colleges have committed to becoming climate neutral, and more sign on every day. We are building partnerships with community groups to block the construction of new coal-fired power plants and launch a green wave of urban and rural renewal. As our government abandoned the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands of young people dropped everything to serve and rebuild. Over 6,000 of us came to Power Shift this weekend, thousands more took part in Step it Up around the country - a generation of solutions, but we know

we cannot do it alone and have come to seek your help.

And we will be heard because we are, quite literally, fighting for our lives. This can no longer be a political issue – for the survival of our people and our planet, we must put aside partisan politics and come together as humans, as mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, to heal ourselves and our planet. This is no small task. As Evon Peter told us on Saturday night, this crisis is not only an ecological and economic crisis, it is a spiritual and cultural crisis that is centuries old. We must begin the long process of reconciliation with the original peoples of this land, with the people that were brought here against their will, especially those from Africa, and all the people that are poorly served by our society. We cannot sacrifice communities for our overconsumption today, not only because it is wrong for those communities today but because we will be sacrificing the basis of life for our children and future generations.

I'm 26 years old and about to become a father. I implore the members of this 110th Congress to hear our demands – but I ask that you hear them not as politicians, but as mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers.

1. Green Jobs Now!
2. 80 by 50!
3. No Coal!

The CHAIRMAN. Our second witness is Brittany Cochran. She originally is from a small rural town in Louisiana. Our next witness, Brittany Cochran, is now a junior at Xavier University in New Orleans.

After work with the Deep South Environmental Justice Center, Ms. Cochran became a leader in the environmental movement. Since then, she has become passionate about how the issues of global warming and energy dependence are affecting vulnerable communities like her home in Louisiana. For her leadership on environmental issues, Brittany was featured in Seventeen magazine.

We welcome you, Ms. Cochran. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

#### **STATEMENT OF BRITTANY R. COCHRAN**

Ms. COCHRAN. Good morning. My name is Brittany Cochran, and I am a pharmacy student at Xavier University in Louisiana. I would like to thank the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming for inviting me this morning to represent young environmentalists who are passionate about global warming.

My personal experiences of growing up, living and witnessing disproportionate effects of global warming will greatly influence my perspectives and testimony.

As a child, I listened as a woman who assumed the role as my grandmother accused petrochemical plants of polluting our environment. She blamed them for the death of her daughter, who died of breast cancer in her mid 30s. I watched her battle major companies and win.

At that time, I did not realize I was inheriting an interest and awareness in environmental justice. As a young adult, I have decided to join the fight for a clean and just environment for all.

Global warming is caused by the emission of heat-trapping gases produced by vehicles, power plants, industrial processes and deforestation. In Louisiana, the effects of global warming are exacerbated by coastal erosion. Because of coastal erosion, there is no buffer system to prevent places inland like New Orleans from being flooded and washed away. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita washed away more than 200 square miles of coastal wetlands.

Poor African American communities are the most vulnerable and are disproportionately impacted by these destructive hurricanes because they live in close proximity to industry. I have personally experienced the effects of living so close to industry. In 1999, an aluminum plant 5 miles from my home had an explosion that sent chemicals and products into the air and into our yards. In my lifetime, because of global warming, I will probably experience and witness many more catastrophic and unprecedented occurrences such as Hurricane Katrina, tsunamis and other hurricanes.

Environmental justice is about fighting for those disproportionately affected by global warming. For example, people of color, low income and indigenous people are exposed to more air pollution in their community and are less likely to have health and property insurance.

Hurricane Katrina demonstrated how minorities and those affected disproportionately by global warming are most affected. Most of those areas occupied by African Americans in New Orleans

are still vulnerable and likely to be flooded in a major storm. These are the people who don't have the means or resources to evacuate, relocate and put their lives back together.

As a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, a great city that bore the brunt of the effects of Hurricane Katrina, it is important that I am here to stress the fact that global warming is real and it is a hard reality for many people along the gulf coast. During Katrina, all of my family members that lived in the city lost everything. They lost their homes, their jobs, places of worship; and now, 2 years later, none of those families have moved back into their homes.

I, too, personally have been affected because I lost all of my campus possessions, and I was displaced from my city and my school.

Many of my peers and colleagues still feel the effects of Katrina. Some are behind in their collegial studies because the universities were closed for a semester; and, upon reopening, a lot of the degree programs were discontinued because of lack of faculty members.

We are faced with extreme increases in rent and living expenses, along with a decrease in job opportunities. Because of this, we are all impacted both physically and mentally.

As a young person, I feel it is my responsibility to work to combat the crisis of global warming. While working with the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, I helped facilitate a seminar on global warming. I taught classes, and I introduced it to other youth who have since then committed to spreading the word.

In 2004, I joined the Climate Justice Corps, which is a great group of young activists who work with communities that have felt the impact of climate change. Together, we help them fight against political and industrial causes of climate change.

While it is true that only a select few are burdened more than others by pollution and environmental harm, global warming effects all races and the economy. Together, my generation can make a powerful impact on the future generations. There must be a radical change in our society, one that includes making global warming a priority so that we can solve the crisis before we reach a point of no return.

Thank you.

[The statement of Ms. Cochran follows:]

Testimony of  
Brittany R. Cochran.  
before the  
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Good morning. I am Brittany Cochran, a pharmacy student at Xavier University of Louisiana. I would like to thank the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming for having me this morning to represent youth environmentalists who are passionate about Global Warming. I would like to testify before the Subcommittee on critical issues of concern such as Global Warming also known as Climate Change. My personal experiences of growing up, living and witnessing disproportionate affects of Global Warming will greatly influence my perspective and testimony.

As a child I listened as a woman who assumed the role as my grandmother accuse petrochemical plants of polluting our environment. She blamed them for the death of her daughter who died of breast cancer in her mid thirties. I watched her battle major companies and win. At that time, I did not realize I was inheriting an interest and awareness in Environmental Justice. As a young adult, I have decided join the fight for a clean and just environment for all.

Climate Change, more commonly known as *global warming*, is caused by the emission of heat trapping gases produced by vehicles, power plants, industrial processes and deforestation. In Louisiana, coastal erosion is an important impact of climate change. Because of coastal erosion there is no "buffer system" to prevent places inland, like New Orleans, from being flooded and washed away. In my lifetime, I will experience and witness many more catastrophic unprecedented occurrences such as Katrina, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Climate Justice is about fighting for those disproportionately affected by climate change. For example, people of color, low-income, and Indigenous are exposed to more air pollution in their communities and less likely to have health or property insurance. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated how minorities, low income and indigenous people are disproportionately affected by climate change. Mostly African American parts of New Orleans are still likely to be flooded in a major storm and once again is left vulnerable. These are the people who don't have the means and resources to evacuate, relocate, and put their lives back together. As a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana; a great city that bore the brunt of climate change and environmental injustice; it is important that I'm here to stress the fact that climate change is real and its happening.



During Katrina, all of my family members that lived in the city lost everything. They lost their homes, jobs, and places of worship. And two years later, none of those families have moved back into their homes. I too was personally affected because I lost my campus possessions and was displaced from my city and my school. Many of my peers and colleagues still feel the effects of Katrina. Some are behind in their collegiate studies because the universities were closed for a semester, we are faced with extreme increases in rent and living expenses with a decrease in job opportunities, as well as physical and mental unhealthiness as a result.

As a young person, I feel it is my responsibility to work to combat the crisis of global warming. I joined the Climate Justice Corps, a group of young activists who work with communities impacted by climate change and its sources to fight against the political and industrial causes of climate change. While it is true, only a select few are burdened more than others by pollution and environmental harms, global warming is effects all races, the economy, and internationally. Together we, the youth, can make a powerful impact on future generations. There must be a radical change in our society, one that includes making global warming a priority for us to solve the crisis before we reach a point of no return.

The CHAIRMAN. Next, we have Ms. Charlee Lockwood, who exemplifies the efforts high school students are making around the country to improve our climate and energy future from St. Michael Village in Alaska.

Ms. Lockwood has taken a leadership role in her community on environmental issues. She has traveled the State of Alaska giving climate change presentations to her peers and gathering signatures demanding action on issues of global warming. For all of her work, Ms. Lockwood received the Alaska Conservation Foundation Denny Wilcher Award for outstanding high school activism.

We welcome you, Ms. Lockwood. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

#### STATEMENT OF CHARLEE LOCKWOOD

Ms. LOCKWOOD. First of all, I would like to thank you for being here to hear about this emergency that we are all facing today; and I would also like to thank the PowerShift people for being here to support us.

My name is Tuntuvak, which means moose in Yuptic Eskimo language; and my English name is Charlee Lockwood. My mom and dad are Rosina and Charles Lockwood. I have four brothers and two sisters, 20 nieces and nephews. I graduated from a public boarding school in 2007.

I grew up in St. Michael, where there are 400 people in the village; and I grew up going to fish camp and doing a lot of cultural activities. I also was brought up by a bunch of my elders, which they taught me to respect others the way I want to be treated and also how to live off subsistence; and, hopefully, someday I get to teach that to my children and my grandchildren.

The global warming effects that I have experienced personally is coastal erosion where my families' houses are falling into the bay and also the graveyards that we have, like the Russian orthodox graveyards, are also falling into the bay; and it is where all of our whole family goes and plays. And also it is really dangerous.

But we have also been having decreasing in subsistence food, like our moose, our fishing or just seals and whales, all the native foods that we eat off the land. The berry picking spots that we go every single year are not there anymore. The hunters are more endangered in the wintertime because they go out on the ice, and a lot of them have fallen through. New—

The CHAIRMAN. Take your time. Take your time.

Ms. LOCKWOOD. Just through my lifetime, I have seen so many changes in our community that it hurts not to be able to have our—it is really scary to lose our tradition, our culture. We have been living here for thousands of years, and it is not just that we are losing our food, it is losing our homes and—because we are spiritually connected and emotionally and physically connected to our homes, and there are so many communities that are in trouble.

It is an emergency. We need to take action now because—I don't know if you have heard about the Shishmaref. Their whole community has to move, and it has taken so much money just to relocate 500 people.

And we need to take action now. This is going to impact my future, all of our futures because we have to leave our homes, our

traditions, where our ancestors taught us how to take care of ourselves from traditional culture lifestyles. And because there is going to be nobody else to teach. But we have learned from our elders.

I am in a group called Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, and I would like Alaska Youth for Environmental Action to stand up.

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action's mission is to inspire, educate and take action on global warming effects in Alaska; and they have done so much to encourage people to raise their voice and get a lot of things done and to help each other out. We have collected 5,000 signatures from all over Alaska, high school students just going around and doing presentations on awaring about global warming or awaring others about global warming and how it is affecting us now and how it could affect us in our future.

We brought the signatures to our congressional legislators to show how much this is an emergency, and we have also done a 3-2-1 pledge to show people what they can do as individuals to reduce carbon emissions to slow down climate change. And what the 3-2-1 pledge is is just that you change three of your light bulbs and you turn your house two degrees down in the wintertime and you unplug one appliance in your house. And these are just, like, really simple things that could really get us so far if we would all just, like, do everything as group.

Most of us that I have met in the whole group—there are seven chapters in Alaska right now, and what I have mostly heard is to save our values, such at clean water, clean air, our homes, our cultures and, most importantly, our future. We have gone through a lot to try and get support from our leaders, which is everybody, like our senators, our representatives; and we need your help now.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Lockwood.

[The statement of Ms. Lockwood follows:]

**Testimony from Cheryl "Charlee" Lockwood**

Hello my name is Charlee Lockwood. I am from St. Michael, Alaska. I have been in the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action program of National Wildlife Federation since 2004. Our mission is to inspire, educate, and take action on environmental issues.

First, I would like to thank the Congressional Select Committee for making time to listen to our testimonies about climate change and what is needed.

St. Michael is a village with a population of 400 people that all value a Traditional way of life. We have been experiencing climate change impacts that are affecting our lifestyles and homes. In St. Michael there has been land erosion, indescribable weather changes, and new invasive species that ruin our subsistence food in the water. The storms are harsher every year and ruining the places where kids go and play in the summer and winter. The Russian Orthodox grave yard is eroding and coffins are falling into the bay. In the summer men go out to hunt and gather supplies for the winter and our native foods are migrating further away from close hunting spots so they have to travel farther to places they've never been and it worries everyone that maybe something might happen to them.

Every summer my family goes to fish camp to gather food for the winter and there has been less fish; and the spring water areas around our camp are not there anymore. There have been higher floods in the village of Stebbins, and we have to go pick up my grandma until the floods go away. At our other fish camp, my grandma's tent frame floated ten miles away because of flooding.

When I was younger we used to watch moose walk past our village. Now they've migrated further north and we haven't seen one in quite a long time. Our favorite berry picking spots are no longer producing as much berries as they used to. It's like the climate change is tricking our berries because it gets warm early and then the berries start to grow and then it gets cold again and kills them.

In my future, if we let everything like this keep happen in my region, there will be a greater need for help; like evacuating our homes. Our traditional ways of life will die like the food we grew up eating, our hunters will have to travel further to keep food in their homes. Our culture will die because everyone will have to move someplace and there will be no one to teach them to.

I have been involved with Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) for five years. We have eleven people here from our group: Tim Treuer, Drew Cason, Kaeli Casati, Celia Miller, Shannon Kuhn, and Milly Josephson from Anchorage; Verner Wilson from Dillingham; Alannah Hurley from Clark's Point; Forest Sebastian from Petersburg; and Cheryl Ishnook from Newhalen. We and many others have done a lot to educate Alaskans about climate change, and what they can do as individuals and in their own schools or communities about this issue; and how to work together across the state.

In 2005, we wrote a “Letter to our Leaders” petition, demanding our leaders to take action on climate change. I presented to youth in schools all over the state about climate change impacts, and helped gather five thousand signatures from teenagers—ten percent of our high school population--representing one hundred and fifty villages and cities. We presented these signatures to our Congressional Delegation and other leaders in April 2006 to show how much of an emergency climate change is in Alaska.

In 2006, other AYEA members created a *3-2-1 Efficiency* campaign to show people what they can do as individuals to reduce carbon emissions and slow down climate change. The 3-2-1 pledge asks people to change three incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs, turn the thermostat down two degrees, and unplug one appliance when not in use. Over three thousand Alaskan families have implemented the pledge, keeping millions of pounds of carbon from entering the atmosphere. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Ted Stevens each signed the pledge when one of our members traveled here in April 2007 to accept the President’s Environmental Youth Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for our work.

Over the past year, we have sent teenagers to testify at the Alaska Climate Change Commission hearings; this group was formed by our legislature after we and many other people asked for it. We have testified at these hearings in Barrow, Juneau, Anchorage, and Kotzebue.

I have taken a lot of action encouraging Alaskans to raise their voices in order to save our communities and values such as clean air, pure spring water, our homes, and our cultures. Despite all of our great youth efforts, now we need your help.

Cheryl “Charlee” Lockwood  
P.O. Box 68  
St. Michael, Alaska, 99659  
(907) 752-0295

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is Katelyn McCormick, who is a student at the University of Tennessee and an officer in Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville, called SPEAK. SPEAK has been involved in initiating and promoting renewable energy policies on campus, including a comprehensive energy plan, a purchase of 560 megawatts of renewable energy a year and a green building certification policy.

Katelyn is also an organizer of Focus the Nation, which is a national teach-in of global warming solutions for America taking place on January 31st.

Welcome, Katelyn. Whenever you are ready, please begin.

#### STATEMENT OF KATELYN MCCORMICK

Ms. MCCORMICK. Good morning. My name is Katelyn McCormick, and I am a student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for having me speak here today. Not many people who are willing to stand up for what they believe in have an opportunity to speak out for those beliefs. I am fortunate enough to be able to share my experiences here today. I'm here now for justice, because lately I have seen many unjust things.

In early October, I had the privilege to visit a town in West Virginia with many other students. We visited one of the many areas of Appalachia where the destructive practice of mountaintop removal coal mining is taking over and rapidly deteriorating an entire region. Standing at the top of Kafer Mountain, I looked down at what was once lush forest, a home for many creatures, a playground for people, what was once a majestic mountaintop; and I felt a knot form in my stomach.

I overheard someone from our group relate seeing this barren mountain to seeing a person's broken bone exposed, and I suddenly understood the sickness I was feeling. This was not something any of us were meant to see. My heart was heavy, and I was overwhelmed.

However, this was nothing compared to the sadness I would feel when a little girl whose elementary school built 300 feet away from a coal processing plant and directly below a dam containing tons of coal slurry would look at me and say all of us kids are getting sick, but they won't build us a new school.

It was nothing compared to what I felt when I listened to families tell me they suffer chronic illnesses because every breath they take is tainted by pollution.

But, even worse, it was nothing to how I felt when I saw the red polluted water that runs from the tap.

How is anyone supposed to live without clean water? Who is letting this happen? An entire region is being disregarded because the rest of our Nation is dependent on coal. Not only is this environmentally unjust; it is socially unjust.

We all have a right to turn on that light switch, but we have a right to use these everyday commodities without worrying that, by doing so, we are putting someone else's life in peril. As Americans, it is our civic responsibility to respect our people and our land. It

is our civic responsibility to take care of our Nation. But, as human beings, it is our moral responsibility to be just and fair.

Standing here today, I feel like a child telling her father that someone has been unfair and asking him to make it better. I shouldn't have to tell anyone that our actions are unfair. As a Nation, we should always be striving for fairness, working to right our wrongs. Instead, we are creating more problems and more injustices.

It is apparent that I am not the only person who feels this way. There is a movement happening. Youth everywhere are recognizing our world's energy crisis, and we are stepping up to fix it. Students across the United States have been working on sustainable initiatives for their campuses.

Campus Climate Challenge has united 300 universities to work on 100 percent clean energy policies and progress towards sustainable alternatives. Frustrated that our government won't recognize the crisis that we are facing, as youth we are stepping up to make positive change where we can, starting with sustainable campuses and moving up from there.

This weekend has been monumental. Over 5,000 students have traveled here today to work towards a just energy future. We are all here for the same reasons, with the same goal in mind; and, for the first time, we have been able to unite, learn, teach, share and construct numerous methods to initiate and implement sustainability on our campuses, in our communities and across our nation.

PowerShift is giving thousands of students the knowledge and resources necessary to implement these changes and continue to empower other students.

This coming January, more than 1,000 universities will simultaneously educate hundreds of thousands of students on solutions to global warming during the first-ever Focus the Nation event. This event will be the biggest national teach-in in U.S. history.

Educating and developing thousands of young leaders on solutions to global warming, Focus the Nation will be critical to the start of 2008. Unique to this event, Focus the Nation will connect faculty and students to build a better future together, bridging a generational gap that has not been connected since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Something big is happening. Our generation has realized the challenge ahead, and we are stepping up to the plate. The movement is here, it is now, and the youth won't back down until our voices are acknowledged and action is taken.

People ask me why I care. I care because this is my future. This is the future of my children, the future of our home, our health, our happiness. I care because, if I don't, who will? This is why we all care. We will not sit by and watch as the place we love, the place we call home is driven into the ground.

Today, I am asking you to recognize what is happening. This movement is big, and it will not dissipate. We don't want to be dependent on unrenewable resources. We don't want to oppress any more communities. We have made our voices clear, and we are continuously striving to become louder than ever. It is time our government take action and join us.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Great.  
[The statement of Ms. McCormick follows.]



Testimony of Katelyn McCormick to the  
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Good Morning. My name is Katelyn McCormick and I am a student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. First, I would like to thank you for this amazing opportunity. Not many people that are willing to stand up for what they believe in have the ability to speak out for those beliefs; I am fortunate enough to be able to share my experiences here today. I am here now for justness because lately, I have seen many unjust things. In early October I had the privilege to visit a town in West Virginia with many other students. We visited one of the many areas of Appalachia where the destructive practice of Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining is taking over and rapidly deteriorating an entire region. Standing at the top of Kayford Mountain I looked down at what was once lush forests, a home for many creatures, a playground for people, what was once a majestic mountaintop, and I felt a knot form in my stomach. I overheard someone from our group relate seeing this barren mountain to seeing a person's broken bone exposed and I then understood the sickness I was feeling. This was not something any of us were meant to see. My heart was heavy and I was overwhelmed. However, this sadness was nothing compared to what I would feel when a little girl, who's elementary school is 300 feet away from a coal processing plant and directly below a dam containing tons of coal slurry, would look up at me and say, "all us kids are getting sick but they won't build us a new school"; it was nothing compared to what I felt when I listened to families tell me they suffer chronic illnesses because every breath they take is tainted by pollution; but even worse, it was nothing to how I felt when I saw the red,

polluted water that runs from the tap. How is anyone supposed to live without clean water? Who could let this happen? An entire region is being disregarded because the rest of our nation is dependent on coal. This is not only environmentally unjust, this is socially unjust. We all have a right to turn on that light switch, but we have a right to use these everyday commodities without worrying that by doing so we are putting someone else's life in peril. As Americans it is our civic responsibility to respect our people and our land. It is our civic responsibility to take care of our nation. But, as human beings it is our moral responsibility to be just and fair. Standing here today, I feel like a child telling her father that someone has been unfair and asking him to make it better, I shouldn't have to tell anyone that our actions are unfair, as a nation we should have always been striving for fairness, righting our wrongs; instead we are creating more problems, and more injustices.

It is apparent that I am not the only person who feels this way. There is a movement happening. Youth everywhere are recognizing our world's energy crisis and we are stepping up to fix it. Students across the United States have been working on sustainable initiatives for their campus. Campus Climate Challenge has united 300 universities to work on 100% clean energy policies and progress towards sustainable alternatives. Frustrated that our government won't recognize the crisis we are facing, as youth we are stepping up to make positive change where we can, starting with sustainable campuses and moving on from there.

This weekend has been monumental. 5,000 students have traveled to D.C to work towards a just energy future. We are all here for the same reasons, with the same goal in mind and for the first time we have been able to unite, learn, teach, share resources, and

construct numerous methods to initiate and implement sustainability on campuses, in communities, and across the nation. Powershift is giving thousands of students the knowledge and resources necessary to implement these changes and continue to empower other students.

This coming January, 1,000 universities will simultaneously educate hundreds of thousands of students on solutions to global warming during the first ever Focus the Nation event. This event will be the biggest national teach-in in U.S. history. Educating and developing thousands of young leaders, Focus the Nation will be a critical event to kick off 2008. Unique to this event, Focus the Nation will connect faculty and students to build a better future, bridging the generational gap to work for positive societal change has not been done since the 60's. Something big is happening. Our generation has realized the challenge ahead and we are stepping up to the plate. The movement is here, it is now, and the youth won't back down until our voice is acknowledged and action is taken.

Someone once asked me why I care. I care because this is my future. This is the future of my children, the future of our home, our health, our happiness. I care because if I don't, who will? This is why we all care; we will not sit by and watch as the place we love, the place we call home, is driven into the ground. Today, I am asking you to recognize what is happening; this movement is big and it will not dissipate. We don't want to be dependent on un-renewable resources; we don't want to oppress any more communities and regions. We have made our voices clear and we are continuously striving to become louder than ever, it's time our government take action. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Our final witness is Mr. Mike Reagan, who is a student at UC Davis and the Statewide Board Chair of CALPIRG for students. As a board member of CALPIRG, Mr. Reagan has coordinated campaigns to fight global warming across the State. On campus, he has led the student lead efforts calling for a larger investment in renewable energy at his school. Recently, Mr. Reagan gathered over 170,000 people to advocate for more clean energy and funding for public transportation.

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

#### **STATEMENT OF MIKE REAGAN**

Mr. REAGAN. Thank you, Chairman Markey; and I thank the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming for allowing us to speak.

My name is Mike Reagan. I am here to represent the CALPIRG student chapters as the statewide board chair. But I also represent the student body and the University of California, Davis, and I represent my entire generation of young people.

I am calling on Congress to take urgent action on global warming by passing the energy bill as a down payment on our future. To solve global warming, Congress must make the hard decisions that will change our relationship to energy consumption and sustainability. So far, our Congress has not acted.

In contrast, I have spent the last several years of my life organizing for the change I think we desperately need, and I am not alone in taking this issue into my own hands. Governments at the State level and students like myself across the country are moving forward. We are not waiting for leadership from Congress. Instead, we are engaging in the fight.

Our generation has been lost in the shuffle of the political game, and it will be our generation who will shoulder the brunt of a growing crisis. We understand the devastating effects of global warming because we have the most to lose.

But in the face of Federal inaction on the most critical issue facing our generation today, we have grown cynical. We generally distrust government to solve our problems, so we are not surprised that neither Congress nor the White House is leading the effort to solve global warming.

Additionally, we are brought up in a culture of blockbuster news, focused on grabbing the short attention spans of Americans. As a result, many of the youth generation are unsure of the solutions that exist to this problem.

So you would think that our generation would be immobilized with cynicism of our leaders and despair that our problem can't be solved. But, in fact, the opposite is true. As a student leader, I have decided to work where I have the greatest impact and building a base of engaged students who focus on policy solutions at UC Davis. And in my community I have worked to get students politically active, and it is proving to work.

Recently, I organized students' voices to urge our school to build more sustainable buildings on campus, including persuading our administration to fund a building with student dollars, which is now qualified as one of the greenest buildings in the world. We

have switched in 5,000 energy efficient light bulbs in the last few weeks; and we have promoted energy efficiency and conservation with solar smoothies, making banana shakes with the power of the sun, and film screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth* have been overwhelming popular on college campuses across the country.

Across the State, my organization, CALPIRG, has led efforts in the UC Santa Cruz for a student referendum to run the university on 100 percent renewable energy. At UC Berkeley and UC Santa Barbara, we created collective student funds to spur sustainable projects on campus. And so far this school year, we have educated over 34,000 students in California on the solutions to global warming through clean car shows, lights-out dorm contests and much, much more.

At the Statewide level, we have campaigned to urge our political leaders to make the hard decisions. In 2005, I personally raised over \$6,000 for Environment California to pass the million solar roofs bill, which is the largest investment of solar power in the history of the world. In the summer of 2006, I raised over \$8,000 for Environment California to pass the Global Warming Solutions Act, the biggest step this Nation has taken to fight global warming so far. And thousands of students as campus activists and canvassers were on the front lines building support for these policy reforms. From these examples, you can see that young people like myself are seeing the solutions and acting.

In State capitals, change is taking place as well. Now over 5,000 students from across the country have gathered together for universal change at the University of Maryland this weekend. You can only anticipate more.

Therefore, today I urge Congress to act against global warming. Specifically, Congress should pass the energy bill this session. Congress should mandate 15 percent of our electricity to come from clean, renewable sources by 2020 as well as raise the average mile per gallon from cars and trucks to 35 by 2020.

Such action will be recognized as a down payment on our clean future. It will allay our cynicism and renew our sense that Congress wants to lead our country into the future that my generation will inherit.

On behalf of myself, the students at UC Davis and on behalf of students across the country and my entire generation, I implore you not only to act by passing the energy bill this session, I implore you to keep taking the necessary strides it will take to lead us off our unsustainable path onto a new, more promising, healthy future.

Thank you, Chairman Markey, and thank you to the committee.  
[The statement of Mr. Reagan follows:]

Testimony of Mike Reagan to the  
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Thank you Congressman Markey and the Special Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming,

My name is Mike Reagan. I am here to represent CALPIRG Students as the Statewide Board Chair, but also this generation of students who are calling on Congress to act on Global Warming.

To solve Global Warming, this country will need to make the hard decisions and pass strong legislation that will change our relationship to energy, consumption, and sustainability. So far, Congress has not done this. As a student leader, I fail to see my Congressional Representatives leading the necessary charge. I am not alone in taking this issue into my own hands. Students across the country are not waiting for leadership from Congress, we are engaging our fellow students to fight Global Warming.

Our generation has been lost in the shuffle of the political game. We understand the devastating effects of Global Warming. We know how Global Warming will affect the world, especially members of our own generation. But in this culture of blockbuster news focused on grabbing the short attention spans of Americans, many of the youth generation are unsure of the solutions that exist to the problem. Furthermore, coming from a generation that generally distrusts Government more than any other in America, many young people are not looking to Congress or the White House to solve the growing problems of Global Warming.

As a student leader, I have decided to work where I have the greatest impact: building a base of engaged students who focus on policy solutions. On my campus, and in my community, I have worked to get students politically active. To do this, I have educated my fellow students on the potential solutions for Global Warming and what can be done on campus and in our own private lives. Through actively educating, recruiting, and organizing, I engage students into the political discourse on Global Warming. I work to win the hearts and minds of my fellow students and mobilize our generation to act.

On campus I have worked with others and tried many different methods. To educate our fellow students we have worked to make our campuses sustainable. On my campus, we organized students' voices to urge the administration to make more sustainable buildings on campus, including a student funded building to be LEED Platinum standard. We have passed out 5,000 energy efficient light-bulbs and educated students on the value of conservation. CALPIRG led efforts in UC Santa Cruz for a student referendum to run the University on 100% renewable energy. At UC Berkeley and UC Santa Barbara we created collective student funds to spur sustainable projects on campus. UC San Diego generates a full megawatt of energy from Solar Power. We have educated thousands of students in California on the solutions to Global Warming.

I have also been working working to mobilize students to be politically active in leading the fight against Global Warming. For the past three summers, I have campaigned to urge our Statewide and National political leaders to make the hard decisions. In 2005, I raised over \$6,000 for Environment California on a campaign to pass the Million Solar Roofs Bill (SB 1). When the Million Solar Roofs bill eventually passed into California law, it became the largest investment of solar power in the world: \$3.2 Billion for solar power rebates. In the summer of 2006, I raised over \$8,000 for Environment California to pass the Global Warming Solutions Bill (AB 32). This was the biggest step this nation has taken to fight Global Warming so far. Young people across the state organized our communities and passed the Nation's first Statewide cap on Global Warming pollution. This previous summer, I directed a campaign office and recruited, trained, and managed young activists in an effort to raise over \$170,000 to pass HR 969, the Renewable Electricity Standard. This last fall, I organized a voter registration drive on my campus and registered over 1500 students to vote for the midterm elections. Across the state we registered over 20,000. And on college campuses across the country we have built support for over 300 campuses to sign on to the American Colleges and Universities Presidential Climate Commitment, a pursuit towards climate neutrality for our institutions of higher education, the hotbed of social awareness and change in America.

On our campuses, we are seeing the solutions and beginning to act. Now, as nearly 5,000 students from across the country gather together to call for change, I urge Congress to act against Global Warming. I am here to represent my generation and to relay the message that students and young people are repeating, it is time for action.

Thank you Chairman Markey and the Committee for allowing me to speak.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Reagan, very much. And that completes time for the opening statements from our witnesses.

Mr. Parish, you are one of the founding fathers of the youth movement calling for action on global warming. Can you tell us how this movement has changed and grown over the last 5 years? What has happened?

Mr. PARISH. In only a few years this movement has gone from a handful of student groups on college campuses around the country to student groups on over 1,000 schools across the country. And we were starting with trying to pass 10 percent clean energy policies on our campuses. And in this past year, we have passed 426 climate neutrality policies on our campuses. So we have seen the interest and the conviction get much deeper. We have seen the support across our generation get much broader, and we have seen tremendous victories from, you know, education to policy.

The CHAIRMAN. So what is it about the green movement that is attracting so many young people?

Mr. PARISH. We know that our future is on the line, and it is, you know, not only about the environment. It is about our economy. It is about this war. It is about our health. It is about our future. So, you know, young people want to be part of something bigger than themselves. Our society has not encouraged us to build solidarity and to be part of our communities. It has encouraged an individualism and consumerism that has divided us for too long.

Our generation is coming together around this issue as a unifying force and a positive vision for this country and for the world.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. You know what I think would be helpful is if you could talk a little bit about the green job potential and where you see those jobs being created and how it can affect your generation in terms of where they work for their time here on the planet.

Mr. PARISH. Right. One of the documents that I am submitting for the Congressional Record is the call for a National Clean Energy Corps, which outlines a \$200 billion ask for Congress, which sounds like a lot but actually isn't. The Clean Energy Corps would more than pay for itself in the energy cost savings that it would generate.

We want to put \$10 billion into doubling opportunities for national service around energy efficiency and climate. We want \$50 billion for State and local green jobs development to train people in the skills that they need to weatherize homes, to put up solar panels, to expand green space and do a number of other activities that help build community and solve global warming.

And finally, we want \$140 billion for a revolving loan fund to finance energy efficiency projects around the country. We want those jobs to go to the people that have been locked out of the old dirty economy and we want to give them pathways out of poverty into the new green economy. We want them to go to underserved communities. We want them to go to veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world. We want them to go to workers that are losing their jobs because of manufacturing leaving, or to create a just transition for workers in dirty industries in this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.



Ms. Cochran, could you talk a little bit about the community in New Orleans and the jobs that were lost and the impact of Katrina and how you see this green revolution benefiting that community? It is an illustration of the intensity of the storms that are now hitting all parts of the globe, and the impacts that it has especially upon the poorest people who are most vulnerable.

Ms. COCHRAN. New Orleans has changed a bit since Hurricane Katrina. We have made a lot of progress and there are still some ways to go. A lot of the city, a lot of the tourist areas of the city have come back, but there are still parts of New Orleans that look the same as they did 2 years ago.

As far as jobs lost, the whole community in New Orleans East is still struggling to come back. There were lots of stores, shopping centers, different schools that have not reopened, in which a lot of jobs were lost, which has caused people to relocate. I know a lot of people in New Orleans still have trouble just rebuilding their homes because the resources aren't available. Stores just like Home Depot that was once opened is closed. And you have to travel so far just to get the materials needed to put your lives back together.

As far as the progress in New Orleans, the way it affects me, I know personally at my university and other universities in the cities, a lot of the degree programs have been discontinued, because a lot of the faculty members and staff have relocated because they can't put their lives back together there in the city.

A lot of new programs have started. I participated in a Safe Way Back Home program with Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. And with that program, what we did, we took a block in New Orleans East, we dug up the whole lawn, we resodded it, we put in new grass, new landscaping, as an incentive to get people to come back, as an incentive to make the community look like it still has life. And it makes people want to say, you know, this is my home, you know. It doesn't matter if your inside is fixed good if the block looks like it did the day after Hurricane Katrina. It is not an incentive for people to come back.

Another program that is about to start is they are offering training and a grant with HUD, Healthy Homes Project. And people are getting trained in environmentally safe renovations and remodeling work practices and it includes information on mold remediation, soil remediation, and efficient ways to conserve energy in the home. And the next training will be November 17.

So, like we are starting different things to get people to come back. And just in case another hurricane happens, we will know how to recover quicker. So I think New Orleans is going to come back. I think it is going to take some time. But wish help from Congress and other youth leaders, I think we can do it.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Lockwood, you made a mention of Shishmaref. How many other communities in Alaska are in the same position; that is, that they are vulnerable as well to the effects of climate change and the impact on their village in the same way that tens of millions, maybe hundreds of millions of dollars are going to have to be spent to relocate Shishmaref and the people that live there? Could it happen in other parts of Alaska as well?

Ms. LOCKWOOD. Yes, it can. Because there are so many communities that live on the coast all over Alaska, like all the coastal areas. And everybody depends on fish. And it would take a lot of money just to move a place of 500 people, and that doesn't even seem worth it. I mean, it has happened to one community. And my guess is there are over 100 other communities that are in need of help from coastal erosions. And for my community, we do not have enough money from our corporations, or just like we don't even have any funding from anywhere to help our own communities. So, yeah.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Reagan, you were talking about raising the fuel economy standard from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon and having 15 percent of all of our electricity come from wind and solar by 2020. Do you think that the young people are ready to rally behind that over the next 4–5 weeks?

Mr. REAGAN. Yes. Yes, I do. Billy spoke very eloquently of how the movement changed a lot in the last few years. We focused on mobilizing our generation, speaking to them on where we are at. And like I said in my testimony, our generation will bear the brunt of this assault on the Earth. And we have been calling out in a very unified voice for change on our college campuses, with our State and local governments. The only institution that has been slow to listen has been Congress so far. And that is why there are so many people gathered here today to advocate for change. And I feel that that is proof that this generation can rally around this.

We have over 5,000 people, students this weekend at the University of Maryland, rallying around this one issue, and thousands of others around the country in their own events on college campuses.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank you. And I appreciate the three-point program as well that Mr. Parish laid out for us. But those two numbers that I just mentioned—and that you mentioned, Mr. Reagan, in your testimony—those are two important numbers too, 35 and 15; 35 miles per gallon for all vehicles, 15 percent of all electricity coming from renewables both by 2020, in just 12 years from now. That would just trigger this revolution just in those two areas. So 35 and 15 are key numbers.

And we are going to be voting on those two numbers in the next 4 to 5 weeks here in Congress. And it will be the most important change that has happened since I was elected to Congress 31 years ago. And it will be the most important vote that we have had on energy and environment in 31 years. And if we win that, as you said in your testimony, Mr. Reagan, that will be the building block, that will be the first step. And then we can move on to a cap and auction and trade bill that will limit by 80 percent the greenhouse gases by 2050 that we can do next year. But we have to win this first one, we have to prove that we can win on 35/15. We have to prove that we can push that through and put it on President Bush's desk.

And that will be a big opportunity for us because it will happen right around the time that the world is meeting in Bali, and Al Gore is going to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. So all of it will be happening right at the same time. So we are going to need your energy, your efforts, in order to be able to be successful on

that vote. It is coming up right now, you don't have to wait for the election in 2008. There is something big happening here in the Congress in the next 4 to 5 weeks. And we are going to need your help on that as well.

Ms. McCormick, you are down in Tennessee. You are talking about the coal issue. How is the renewable issue being received down in Tennessee?

Ms. MCCORMICK. Well, a lot of people support it. But in these regions there are a lot of underprivileged families that don't realize what change can do for them. And if we could just have the support of our government to implement these changes and make a switch over to renewable energies and have a smooth transition from the dirty industry that is there now, that is hurting them but they rely on these industries to be there, this is how they support themselves, this is how they put food on their table. And they are scared that if we are talking about switching, they are going to lose their jobs. But that is not the case if we can have your support, because we can make a smooth transition and get this dirty industry out of this region.

The CHAIRMAN. And what success have you already seen in your own school in terms of changing the way your own school views these issues?

Ms. MCCORMICK. Our school feels very strongly about these issues. We have taken many polls. And the general student population there has voted to implement an increase in their own tuition, to raise their own tuition prices to ensure that our campus is not purchasing this coal that is coming from this region. We care very much about this region, and we see directly the changes that it is having and the number of people that it is affecting. And we are in full support of this.

The CHAIRMAN. How much have you increased your tuition in order to effectuate the green revolution on your campus?

Ms. MCCORMICK. For in-State tuition, it is like a \$20 increase. And for out-of-State, it is just a little more.

The CHAIRMAN. And what did you do with that money?

Ms. MCCORMICK. That money goes to a committee that allocates the funding for renewable energy on campus. We have a responsible coal purchasing policy. And that money is funding that, and we have a certain amount set aside for other projects.

The CHAIRMAN. And do any of the others of you have on your own campus fees on the student body that are then used for renewable energy purposes? How many people out there are on campuses that have a renewable energy fund?

That is great. That is a phenomenal revolution because you are the leaders in your own community. And then giving illustrations as to how this can work for everyone to create new jobs. As you are doing these projects, you are creating jobs for people who have to then come in from the community to construct these facilities.

Mr. Parish, this is a movement that is not only here in the United States. You made reference to it around the world. Could you elaborate on that?

Mr. PARISH. There are young people that came to Power Shift from at least half a dozen countries around the world. But more importantly, there are youth networks that have emerged and are

emerging all over the world and have rallied around very similar strategies and goals for their work. We are working first and as our core focus to make our own schools and our own communities models of the sustainable future and society that we want to see. But we are also rallying around building an international framework for reducing emissions globally at the scale of the problem.

I also want to add that as young people, you know, we are coming here today as a youth movement seeking partnership with our parents' generation and our grandparents' generation. We don't want a divided movement. We don't want to be only a youth movement. We want a national mobilization on this issue. So we come here, calling on our parents and our grandparents to join us in this fight for our future.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Parish, what is your message to the corporations who are fighting this clean energy movement—this clean environment movement? What do you say to those corporations who are fighting you and this movement?

Mr. PARISH. I say they are going down. Young people are very, very savvy on these issues. They know green washing when they see it. They don't want to buy from companies that aren't, you know, attentive to the sustainability of this planet. They want to work for, invest in, and buy products from companies that really are trying to do things in a sustainable way. They are starting their own businesses to replace the businesses of the past that are not attentive to these concerns.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. You know I think maybe what we could do is ask each of you, if you would, to give us your best 1 minute. What is the 1 minute you want Congress to remember about your movement and the change that you want to see for our country and for our planet?

And we will go in reverse order. And we will begin with you, Mr. Reagan if you could. Give us the message you want the Congress to remember.

Mr. REAGAN. I would be happy to. My message is that students across the country have been acting for change for years. They have been advocating on the campuses, they have been advocating on the governments locally and statewide to solve a problem that is going to affect our generation more than any other and to solve a problem that is devastating. The effects of global warming are so tremendous when the solutions are so simple. And now it is time for Congress to act. Now it is time to get onboard and make the changes, to take the tough decisions that it will take to lead us on a cleaner energy future, and to provide a path and ensure that government is for the people and not for, as we say, corporations and the corporate community.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Reagan. Ms. McCormick.

Ms. MCCORMICK. I would like to say to Congress that it is not just our youth that are waking up. People across our Nation are waking up and unifying to send this same message to Congress that we no longer support unrenewable resources. And we want to put the energy the money and the work into starting new and reusable sources of energy.

And I would just like to say that this movement is not going to stop. And if Congress won't listen, we will just be here look knocking on the door even longer.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Cochran.

Ms. COCHRAN. I just want to remind Congress that I am here to represent ordinary people. Global warming, the effects of global warming happen every day. Even after the TV cameras go off, after the flashes stop flashing, the news stops reporting about it, ordinary people feel the effects of global warming every day. So it is very important to implement policy changes now that affect our future when there are not the headlines in the news. It is very important that we feel safe in our community, that we can breathe clean air, we have clean jobs, and support renewable energy.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Ms. Cochran. Ms. Lockwood.

Ms. LOCKWOOD. I would like to ask as an individual and as a representative of my future generation, and of Alaska, for the Congress to open up their hearts and their ears and to be a good support, a good buddy, a good friend, a good anything, like a good somebody to us and help us out for saving our values.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Ms. Lockwood.

Mr. PARISH. I want Congress to put partisan politics aside for one moment. I want the Congress to understand that, you know, their future, their children's future and future generations' lives are truly at stake. And we have a very, very small window of time to change the direction of our culture and our economy, to move it in a more sustainable direction.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Parish. And we thank each of you.

Again, I think we have a great chance before the next election, before the election of 2008, to pass a climate change bill, to pass a cap and auction in trade bill, which will lead to the reduction by 80 percent of the greenhouse gases which we emit on this planet by the year 2050. But the test vote on that is going to be here in Congress over the next 4 to 5 weeks. And that will be the vote on 35/15. Because if we can't increase renewable electricity by 15 percent by 2020, if we can't increase the fuel economy standards of the vehicles that we drive to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, then we will not have seen the progress which we need politically in order to build the momentum towards reducing by 80 percent the greenhouse gases by the year 2050.

So we have to win first here over the next 4 to 5 weeks, and then, before the next election, have the big vote on the 80 percent reduction by the year 2050. But it won't happen without you. It won't happen without your efforts. It won't happen without the energy that you can bring to this issue over the next 4 to 5 weeks.

This is the moment. This is the time. This is the place. Never before have so many people been in the Ways and Means Committee room at the same time.

You are absolutely the biggest crowd of people. This is the largest audience for a committee hearing in the history of Congress. And you are in the room right now as we are having it. And there is a whole generation which is rising and speaking on these issues.

And as Billy said, you are the largest generation. You are speaking for the 21st century. You are testifying on behalf of the 21st

century. You are testifying on behalf of the future of the planet, of the poor people on the planet, of the whole vision of what this planet can be. So we need your help, your work over the next 4 to 5 weeks on this bill, that is the first step that will lead to the much larger step of an 80 percent reduction by 2050.

We can't thank each of you enough for the excellent testimony which you gave today. With the thanks of the committee, this hearing is adjourned. Thank you all so so much.

[Whereupon, at 10:58 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]