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## **Advocates Kick Off 40 Days of Action Leading Up to 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day**

**LANSING** – With 40 days until Earth Day, leaders from the environmental community and others signed a “Declaration” calling on the U.S. Senate to take action on clean energy and climate. Forty years after the first Earth Day, these leaders urged the U.S. Senate to start moving to clean energy and cut the carbon pollution that threatens America’s economy and security and the climate.

“Since Earth Day began 40 years ago, America has had an energy policy that rewards polluters and keeps us dependent on foreign energy sources. These policies threaten our economy, our national security and our planet,” said **Mark Neisler** of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, a Clean Energy Works partner. “We know that clean energy investments will bring good-paying jobs to Michigan and ensure a cleaner, healthier Michigan. We urge our leaders in Washington to take action to address the energy and climate challenges that are before us.”

Clean energy advocates today said the transition to a clean energy economy is a way for Congress to truly honor the meaning of Earth Day to defend and protect the environment, create jobs and enhance America’s national security.

“It’s a simple fact that investments in clean energy technology will help create jobs for Michigan workers,” said State Representative **Rebekah Warren** (D-Ann Arbor). “Too many of our workers are struggling to make ends meet after seeing their jobs shipped to other states and countries. What we need is a comprehensive clean energy plan for the United States that invests in clean energy alternatives like advanced auto manufacturing, wind power and solar power. These investments will help create jobs turn our economy around.”

Advocates signed a declaration during the press conference today, calling on the Senate to act on clean energy and climate change.

“On the first Earth Day in 1970, millions of us were dazzled by images of Earth from the moon – a blue marble existing in the darkness of space,” said Ann Arbor resident **Will Weber**, who helped organize events during the original Earth Day in 1970. “We were unaware of how delicate the balance of life was and how much our actions can impact everything on our small planet. This year, millions of us will again celebrate Earth Day and all the fragile beauty of our planet. As we do, we urge our leaders to take action on clean energy and climate legislation that can help protect the natural resources we hold dear for generations to come.”

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