

**Contacts:**

Tim Fink  
Executive Director  
Iowa Interfaith Power and Light  
515-689-1112  
[director@iowaipl.org](mailto:director@iowaipl.org)

Lynn Laws  
Communications Director  
Iowa Environmental Council  
515-244-1194, ext 210  
[lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org](mailto:lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org)

## **Harkin's Leadership Needed to End America's Addiction to Oil**

***Press conference to be held west of Iowa capitol building***

***June 1, 2010***

(Des Moines, IA) - At 1:00 PM on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, religious and environmental groups will be uniting on the State Capitol Building's west side to hold a press conference calling upon Senator Harkin to be a leading voice for comprehensive climate legislation when he returns to Washington, DC on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This message comes at a crucial time for the Senate, which is on recess for the week of Memorial Day. Upon returning to Washington, Senate Democrats will be holding a series of special caucus meetings to determine whether or not to pursue policies aimed at curbing carbon pollution and reducing U.S. reliance on foreign sources of energy.

“It’s time to get serious about ending our fossil fuel addiction. American workers, businesses, our stagnant economy and certainly our home planet, Earth, cannot afford another year of inaction by Congress on this matter,” said Lynn Laws, Communications Director for the Iowa Environmental Council.

With more than 200,000 gallons of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico every day, what greater reminder do we need that the United States needs to shift to cleaner sources of energy-and make that shift now.  
,” said \*, “...”

Religious and environmental leaders are also concerned that inaction will further jeopardize the negotiations for a new international climate treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which is set to expire at the end of the year. “The rest of the of the world is looking to our Senate for leadership now,” said \* of . “If we, as a nation, fail to act, then we will not be able to negotiate in good faith with other countries.”

In June 2008, the House of Representatives passed comprehensive climate legislation in the form of the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Since then, climate legislation has stalled in the Senate.

“Senator Harkin is recognized as a leader within his party,” stated Tim Fink, Executive Director of Iowa Interfaith. “He has an opportunity to use his influence to make a difference not just for people in Iowa, but for people around the world for generations to come.”

**Who:** Tim Fink, Executive Director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
Stephen Lauer, \* of Iowans for Oxfam  
Lynn Laws, Communications Director for the Iowa Environmental Council  
Neila Seaman Director of Sierra Club Iowa  
Susan Temere, Regional Coordinator for 1Sky

**What:** Press Conference

**Where:** West Side of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines

**When:** 1:00 PM on Tuesday, June 1st