



**Detroiters
Working for
Environmental
Justice**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice applauds President Obama's dedication to addressing climate change

DETROIT, Mich. June 26, 2013 – **President Barack Obama** outlined a series of steps the United States must take to address the problem of climate change during a speech at Georgetown University. In response, **Kimberly Hill Knott**, senior policy manager for **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**, released this statement:

“Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice applauds President Obama for taking the leadership to address this important issue of our time. In particular, we appreciate his commitment to further explore and address the adverse impact that climate change has on vulnerable communities.

“Climate change affects all of us, but low-income and minority communities are at higher risk for increased heat waves, air pollution and infectious diseases, which is why the President's call to limit the carbon pollution that fuels climate change is particularly important.

“We are also pleased that President Obama is issuing a Presidential Memorandum directing the EPA to finalize standards for new power plants and to establish standards for existing power plants, which has been a leading request for many environmental and environmental justice organizations, especially in Michigan. According to the NAACP Coal to Clean Report, in Michigan 200,000 people live within three miles of a coal-fired power plant; 31 percent are people of color. These plants are responsible for producing large amounts of toxic emissions that negatively impact health outcomes for the most vulnerable communities.

“We are hopeful that the initiatives taken by President Obama will result in a positive impact on the work being organized by Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice through the activities of the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative,” said Guy Williams, President & CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice.

“In an effort to bring attention to the adverse affects of climate change in Detroit, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice has convened several key stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to form the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative. Our work is ongoing, but supported by many of the policy initiatives President Obama spoke of.”

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