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**National Tribal Environmental Council Applauds Senators Lieberman and Warner  
for Action on Global Warming and Tribal Concerns**

The National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC), on behalf of its 184 federally-recognized member tribes, commends Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and John Warner (R-VA) for developing bipartisan climate change legislation that takes measurable steps to address global warming and move the nation away from a course of uncontrolled greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

"We are particularly encouraged" said Kirk Francis, chairman of NTEC's board of directors and Chief of the Penobscot Nation of Maine, "for the Senators' recognition in their bill of federally-recognized tribes and the need of our nation's tribes for resources to address the adverse impacts of global warming currently facing their communities."

The bill, "America's Climate Security Act" (S. 2191), would take a step in the right direction by capping 75 percent of the nation's GHG emissions, as generated by the electric power, industrial and transportation sectors. The cap for these sources would be reduced below 2005 emissions levels by 15 percent in 2020, and 70 percent in 2050. With these reductions and more expected as a result of energy efficiency provisions in the bill, total U.S. GHG emissions would be expected to decline 53 - 61 percent by 2050.

NTEC and its member tribes, in all regions of the nation, consider climate change to be the most pressing environmental issue of our time, with strong impacts on air, water, land and the overall ecosystem. Federally-recognized tribes -- sovereign nations with certain rights ensured by the U.S. Constitution, treaties and legal precedence -- are facing the immediate, adverse impacts of global warming. As often has been the case, tribal communities shoulder a disproportionate burden of negative environmental consequences created by commercial and industrial operations, and in this case, those created by global warming.

"This is why we are so pleased that Senators Lieberman and Warner have drafted progressive, inclusive climate change legislation that both acknowledges the adverse impacts of global warming facing tribes, and provides us with resources to address these impacts," added Chairman Francis.

Native communities nationwide are currently facing the impacts of global warming. Most notably, certain Native villages in Alaska will have to relocate due to storm surges, flooding, and erosion. Furthermore, tribes in the Pacific Northwest are being forced to consider alternatives to the salmon on which they have subsisted for centuries, but now face possible extinction. And a number of western tribes with drought-ridden lands are finding that these lands can no longer support a number of animals and plants on which their people depend on for culture and subsistence. Significant public resources are

needed to reverse such global warming impacts; the Lieberman-Warner bill is a critical first step toward authorizing these resources.

Now that this essential first step has been taken, NTEC believes that in view of our nation's late start in this direction, ~~tribes and others need to continue their persistent effort to protect all Americans from the adverse impacts of global warming.~~

“Senators Lieberman and Warner have begun a long and likely arduous journey down a path our nation needs to take, and we give them great credit for that,” added Chairman Francis. “Tribal nations deserve the opportunity the Senators have provided us to join in, and now we look forward to working with them and their colleagues step by step, to make an already positive bill even better for federally-recognized tribes,” he concluded.

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**The National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC)** was formed in 1991 as a membership organization dedicated to working with and assisting tribes in the protection and preservation of tribal environments. The organization's membership is open to any federally-recognized tribe throughout the United States. Although NTEC is a membership organization, its services are provided to all federally-recognized tribes.