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Coalition of High-Profile Venture Capitalists and Business Executives Launch New Coalition Seeking to Protect Public Lands from Harmful Energy Development

Washington, DC – [The Business Coalition for Conservation and Climate](http://www.businessc3.org/), a new advocacy group made up of high-profile executives and investors announced its formation today. The Coalition will advocate for the conservation of public lands and urge the U.S. government, one of the large energy asset managers in the world, to steward the public’s land in a manner that reduces greenhouse gas emissions as part of a national strategy to address climate change.

Today, the Department of the Interior (DOI) manages more than 2.4 billion acres of subsurface mineral rights including energy resources like coal, crude oil and natural gas for the American public.

Combined, federal lands accounted for 40% of all coal, 24% of all crude oil, and 14% of all natural gas produced in the United States in 2015. Given this significant fossil fuel portfolio, it is clear that any meaningful national policy to address climate change must start with the lands over which we have the most authority. Unfortunately, the American people have limited access, and therefore minimal awareness about the impact energy choices made by the federal government on the public’s land has on the public’s health and long-term viability of these precious areas.

The group is launching now because of the aggressive steps being taken by the Trump Administration to reduce or eliminate protections for sensitive public lands and to exploit fossil energy resources regardless of the consequences. The coalition will challenge these plans and lead the business community in engaging policy makers on the impact these policies have on climate change and public health.

Nancy Pfund, founder of DBL Partners – a venture firm that invested in Pandora, Tesla and Solar City –said: “Overwhelming evidence exists regarding the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the public’s health and contribution to climate change. The U.S. government can and must do much more to track this impact and inform the American people about the pollution emitted on public lands.”

Stuart Bernstein, of Sustainable Capital LLC, commented, “Just as shareholders in most of America’s leading companies receive key information regarding the risks and climate impact of their investments, taxpayers deserve to know how their energy assets are being managed.”

The Coalition will engage within the Trump Administration and the Congress advocating for transparency and accountability regarding emissions on public lands across the country.

A full list of current Coalition members is below. As the Congress and the President continue to consider policies that endanger the public’s health and the long-term viability of our public lands, the Coalition will work closely with investors and entrepreneurs nationwide to build a voice for the Coalition’s message.

For more information, or to connect with members of the Coalition for comment, please contact Isaac Brown at 202-540-9162 or isaac@38northsolutions.com

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Stuart & Marcella Bernstein, Sustainable Capital LLC

Robert Keith, BearTooth Capital

Kevin Luzak, ArcherPoint Capital Management LLC

Susan Mason, Aligned Ventures

Jon Powers, CleanCapital

Nancy Pfund, DBL Partners

Jonathan Silver, Tax Equity Advisors

Paul Smith, angel investor and former CEO

James M. Stone, Plymouth Rock Assurance

Ted Wang, Cowboy Ventures