



The Pacific Coast Collaborative, three West Coast governors and the Premier of British Columbia, on Monday, October 28, 2013 released an historic climate pact agreement, setting a price on carbon, setting benchmarks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and investing in clean energy and climate-resilient infrastructure. The following remarks are as prepared for delivery for by David Foster, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance.

“I’m delighted to be joining Governors Brown, Kitzhaber, and Inslee and Premier Clark for what I believe is an historic effort to live up to historic challenges. The BlueGreen Alliance represents 15 million Americans who belong to 10 of our largest unions and four of our country’s most prominent environmental organizations.

“We are iron ore miners in my home state of Minnesota, we are auto workers in Detroit. We build America’s buildings and bridges, we teach our children, and we care for our sick and injured. And we are also the first responders when severe weather causes power outages or damages our water systems.

“We came together in the BlueGreen Alliance as union members and environmentalists because we believed climate change is the most pressing economic and environmental issue of our generation and that while the dangers are great, the opportunities are even greater.

“That’s why we’re proud to support the efforts of the Pacific Coast Collaborative to put a price on carbon in what amounts to the 5th largest economy in the world. No single policy could be more important in driving the innovation and job creation of the 21st Century.

“When government provides direction and incentives for the private sector to solve our biggest challenges, our economy always does its best.

“When we encourage the generation of renewable energy, we create markets for wind turbines, some of the most complex manufactured goods in the world today. There are 8000 manufactured parts and over 300 tons of steel in every wind turbine. That means thousands of jobs in construction and manufacturing, including those iron ore miners in Minnesota.

“When we enact new fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks and low carbon fuel standards, it means investment in new technologies and materials so that autoworkers in Detroit are making the cars the world wants and needs. Over 200,000 new auto assembly jobs have already come back all over the country and there will be more. In Davenport, IA and Alcoa, TN a billion dollars of new investment is responding to new markets for light weight autos, increasing demand for aluminum smelted in Wenatchee and Bellingham. And it all started here, in California, with this state’s government.

“When we implement new building efficiency standards, sheet metal workers, plumbers, and pipefitters are installing new high performance heating and cooling systems, sometimes in new buildings, other times retrofitting old buildings like the San Francisco Federal Building being

brought to Platinum LEED standards by 100 year old California companies like Hathaway Dinwiddie.

“You see, the benefits of initiatives such as this one undertaken by three far-sighted governors and the premier of British Columbia, don’t just accrue to the start-ups and the new technology entrepreneurs. Companies from the old economy benefit as well. General Motors and Tesla Motors both benefit from knowing what our energy policy is going to be and that we are serious about solving climate change.

“I am especially pleased that the Pacific Coast Collaborative has concentrated on the economic opportunities in moving forward with this initiative. We can’t solve our environmental challenges in a society that can’t offer a good job to every American who wants to work or where opportunity is considered a privilege, instead of an American birthright.

“Theodore Roosevelt once said, the greatest gift life has to offer is the opportunity to work hard at work worth doing. I congratulate our four leaders today for having given us each that opportunity.”