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## **Civil Rights and Corporate Leaders Join Commission on Climate Change**

**WASHINGTON** – The head of the NAACP and four leading energy and corporate executives have joined the Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies announced today.

The newest members of the Commission, which was founded last year by the Joint Center to increase African Americans' understanding of climate change and to advance their perspectives in critical policy discussions, are Benjamin T. Jealous, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP, Calvin G. Butler, Esq., Vice President of State Legislative and Government Affairs, ComEd, Inc, Milton Carroll, Chairman of the Board, CenterPoint Energy, Inc., Carolyn L. Green, Vice President for Health, Environment, and Safety, Sunoco, Inc, and Dr. Esther Silver-Parker, Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs, Wal-Mart, Inc.

They join 13 other members of the Commission, which is comprised of leading experts representing government, health, industry, civil rights, academia, labor, consumer protection and environmental protection.

“At a time when our nation is facing major economic challenges, we must ensure all sectors are coming together to discuss climate change policy proposals that are likely to have far-reaching consequences,” stated Joint Center President and CEO, Ralph B. Everett and co-chair of the Commission. “These new members will add important perspectives as the Commission moves forward with its objectives of reversing climate change while ensuring that energy policies are fair to all Americans.”

“We are pleased to have these distinguished leaders join the Commission as we expand our reach into communities across the country and increase our involvement in the political debate over climate change policy,” said Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis, the Commission's other co-chair.

Among the Commission's key objectives are:

- *Build* a broad and geographically diverse coalition of scientists, activists, policymakers, labor, entrepreneurs, educators, religious leaders and business people committed to engaging the African American community on the issue of climate change.
- *Participate* in activities to educate and engage black youth and students, the media, voters, civil rights groups, black churches, and black elected officials at the federal, state and local levels to be more involved with the political debate over climate change.
- *Provide* support for research, policy, partnerships and outreach activities.
- *Develop and implement* strategies to involve the black community, specifically business and entrepreneurs, in the economic opportunities unleashed by the “green economy.”
- *Reframe* the debate on climate change in terms that both resonate with the African American community and express the concerns and needs of the community.

*The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is one of the nation's leading research and public policy institutions and the only one whose work focuses primarily on issues of particular concern to African Americans and other people of color. For more information about the Joint Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.jointcenter.org>.*



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