

Washington, D.C. - Today, Rep. David Price (D-NC) issued the following statement in advance of Earth Day, which is celebrated on April 22 each year. Rep. Price's statement comes as House prepares to consider a resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and commemorating its founder, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

"Tomorrow is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the annual global celebration of the bounty and natural wonders of our planet and a reminder of our individual and collective obligation to be good stewards of it.

"Managing our natural resources and minimizing the impact of human activity on the environment are both profound and fundamental responsibilities. The very survival of the human race depends upon our ability to effectively fulfill these responsibilities.

"Since April 22, 1970, people have gathered on this day to renew their commitment to making our planet greener and healthier, and to encourage their leaders to take action on critical environmental policy issues.

"We have made substantial progress since that first Earth Day, when twenty million eco-pioneers brought environmental protection to the forefront of the national consciousness. Their advocacy gave birth to the green movement and a green generation that has been critical in shaping our society. The green generation spearheaded community support for passage of the laws that we still rely on to improve the quality of the air we breathe, ensure the availability of clean drinking water, and protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems.

"But this struggle is not over. We continue to face significant environmental challenges, and as a nation, we must pursue policies that promote responsible stewardship here at home and provide leadership in the global arena as well.

"Perhaps our most acute challenge – and one we have ignored for far too long – is climate change. This is no idle threat: Scientists tell us that we must reduce emissions by roughly 80 percent by mid-century to avoid a dangerous climate tipping point. As the world's largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, our nation has a unique responsibility to work towards a

comprehensive emissions solution that includes a 21st century energy policy. We must find the political will to do just that.

"We took a significant step forward in December, when President Obama played a critical role in establishing the international Copenhagen Accord. Although this is a nonbinding agreement, it represents a major departure from the prior Administration's abandonment of the Kyoto Protocol, and demonstrates our nation's commitment to being a partner and a leader in finding a global solution to climate change.

"I applaud the President's leadership on this issue and urge him to continue working with Congress to develop comprehensive, science-based legislation to provide climate and energy security for us and the generations to come. The House has approved robust legislation to address this issue, and today I call on my Senate colleagues to move forward as well.

"I also urge the President and my colleagues in Congress to continue to promote policies that safeguard the environment and facilitate sound management of our natural resources. And I encourage all Americans to renew their commitment to the environment and to take actions in their individual lives to reflect it."

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