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Thank you very much.

I want to thank Cornell University and all of you who are present here today, my friends and colleagues in labor. I have a long background in labor, as was mentioned. I worked in the petrol chemical and refining industry in Louisiana for 22 years and was a member of OCAW. I walked many picket lines and fought for justice for our brothers and sisters in the labor unions of Louisiana. I'm very excited to be here.

As President of Apollo Alliance, which is an alliance of labor conservation organizations, civil rights groups, and the faith community, we are a broad alliance, we spread our net far. We're an alliance that is focused on an issue and have brought people together around a common issue, that is to reduce our dependency on foreign oil and at the same time stimulate the American economy with good new jobs and to help clean up the environment. It is a win, win, win, win for America.

For those of you who have not seen *An Inconvenient Truth*, and there are a few, there are two important reasons to see this film. One is because it offers excellent information about the plight of the globe with respect to global warming. The second important and most important reason why I think you should see *An Inconvenient Truth* is because I'm in it. *An Inconvenient Truth* was a wake up call to Americans and people around the globe as to the plight of the earth with respect to global warming. As I shared with Al Gore, and I shared with people across this country, and I share with you, the unemployed Steelworkers that walked into the movie theatre and walked out of *An Inconvenient Truth* moved by the truth of that movie, walked out of the theatre still unemployed. The unemployed Electrical Worker, IBEW, who went to see *An Inconvenient Truth* and walked out into a state of shock, walked out unemployed. The unemployed Auto Worker in Flint, Michigan who went to see *An Inconvenient Truth*, walked out awakened to the plight of global warming and its impact,

walked out of the theatre unemployed. That brought to mind that we recognize the problem, but now the focus must shift to the solution.

I believe that when I took over the Apollo Alliance and they brought me in because of my diverse background, a background in labor and a background in the conservation movement. Two weeks ago I finished my tenure as Chairman of the Board of the National Wildlife Federation. I was Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation and President of Apollo Alliance at the same time. Also, I'm filled with diversity being an African American male for the last 52 years. This offered a piece of diversity that was perfect for bringing together a broad coalition around a common issue and experiencing the benefits of that issue.

I believe that we have to follow a recipe. We need not reinvent the wheel. I oftentimes use Dr. Martin Luther King in his efforts in the civil rights movements as he brought people from all walks of life together around a common issue called "civil rights." He brought people together that were strange bedfellows. He brought labor, he brought the faith community, he brought environmental organizations, he brought women around the issue of civil rights. He turned what were civil rights battles into a movement, and that equated it to the success of a successful movement.

I believe when I first took on with Apollo there was a galvanizing message. And that message was global warming, which would bring all people together around a common issue. But since that time, I have been educated to change that belief somewhat. I do recognize the importance of global warming. I do recognize the importance of education of the issue. But now I strongly believe that the galvanizing issue is not in the problem but in the solution.

The galvanizing issue that's going to bring people together from all walks of life is: How do you clean up the environment? How do you impact the economy of this county and put American people back to work again? How do you make it easier for poor people to be able to afford energy like rich people? How do you make it affordable for poor people to get cars out from Louisiana?

I am encouraging the lawmakers and policy makers of Louisiana and labor to put forth efforts to rebuild New Orleans green. But how can we rebuild New Orleans green when the folks of New Orleans don't have money to rebuild? We're talking about a road-home program where 18.2 billion dollars was sent to the Gulf coast by the Federal government to rebuild New Orleans, but the people in Ninth Ward must rebuild first, and then they can apply for reimbursement. Now where are folks in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans going to get money to build in the first place? There's no surprise that over 100,000 plus people today have not returned. 240,000 homes were destroyed as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

It's very difficult to promote rebuilding green, which is more costly than conventional rebuilding, when there are no resources to rebuild. How do we make it more affordable for poor people who have always been disproportionately impacted with respect to poor environmental practices, and how do we put the working American back to work again?

As was mentioned this morning, when we're building wind turbines, they must be built in America so that we're not exporting our jobs, bringing the product here and continuing to export jobs. It's a viscous cycle that hurts the American economy. How do we build a coalition of people and organizations who all come from different walks of life, who all have the same common goal, and yet, cannot totally agree on how to get there. Believe me it's a challenge!

We're talking about engaging the environmental community who believes that regulations must come first. When you are talking about the labor movement who believes that we must stimulate the American economy, when you are talking about the environmental justice community who simply doesn't want to be dumped on anymore, when you are talking about the faith community who comes from a different perspective. We all have one thing in common. We want the same thing. We must be organizations that cannot operate in a one dimensional manner.

We cannot think through tunnels when we're one dimensional and have an unwillingness to compromise with our neighbor and our brother to achieve the ultimate goal. We cannot put standards on vehicles, standards on the environment that are going to cost more jobs.

We've got to be able to build coalitions that are going to come together and do what Apollo has done like promoting renewable fuel standards in places like Pennsylvania, where 18 percent of the energy in that state will be alternative energy. And because bills like that pass, the Gamesa company in Spain moved its headquarters into Pennsylvania and created a thousand new good jobs in building wind turbines. This is what Apollo is doing. This is what I know all of you are interested in doing, promoting policy that is going to stimulate the American economy. It makes America healthy again. It reduces our dependency on those foreign oils. But it's difficult for us to cut the purse strings with the Venezuelans and the Middle Eastern countries when our economy is so weak and our people are not working.

We now have an opportunity to change America at the level that the civil rights movement changed America. We now have an opportunity to give America a shot in the arm like it has never received before. And that comes through stimulating the economy and putting the American people back to work again, not by sending jobs outside of this country, but by bringing jobs into this country that are going to reduce the carbon into the atmosphere, that are going to clean up the environment, that are going to get us off the oil bail that we're being held over by foreign countries, and bring America back to being America again.

I can remember when I was at OCAW, back in the 1970s and 80s in Louisiana, the union was strong. When we talked, people listened. And now America has been brought to its knees to a place to where some folks are not listening anymore. We have an opportunity now because of this issue, and because policy makers and folks across this country over the years have been coming up with all kinds of great ideas as to how we can stimulate our American Economy.

Labor and the environmental community have worked together and now have come up with an answer. That answer is energy independence. That answer is invested in research and

development of alternative energy that's going to create those new green jobs and a green economy that is going to change this country forever. And then America becomes America again.

I am here to encourage you to continue in your effort to support coalition building around good jobs, but I am also here to thank you because we are not where we want to be today, but it's because of your efforts that we're not where we were. We are making progress, and I'm really excited about that. Thank you Steelworkers, IBEW, thank you all labor, UAW. I don't want to miss any member of labor.

Labor has played such an important role in this whole process and will continue to play an important role in this process. I want to offer the Apollo Alliance in any way that we may be able to assist you in promoting your agenda toward the overall agenda of a new green economy for America. Let's put America back to work again. Thank you very much.