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**Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Statement on President Obama's Climate Plan**

Washington, D.C. – Today President Barack Obama announced his administration's next steps for building a legacy of action to fight the climate crisis. The plan includes new energy efficiency standards for federal buildings and appliances, scales up responsible clean energy production on public lands with an ambitious new commitment to power 6 million homes by 2020, and uses the full authority of the Clean Air Act to cut dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants.

**Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Director released the following statement in response:**

"This is the action that Americans and Arizonans have been waiting for on climate.

"President Obama is finally putting action behind his words, which is exactly what the Sierra Club, our 2.1 million members and supporters, including thousands here in Arizona as well as our coalition partners have worked mightily to achieve. Today, we applaud the President for taking a big step forward toward meeting that goal.

"By committing to establish new energy efficiency standards for federal buildings and appliances, scale up responsible clean energy production on public lands with an ambitious new goal to power 6 million homes by 2020, and use the full authority of the Clean Air Act to cut dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants, including the coal-fired power plants in our state, the President is stepping up to reduce the climate-disrupting pollution that is destabilizing our climate while threatening our economy and endangering our communities and families with extreme weather. Arizona and the Southwest are likely to experience some of the most significant impacts of climate disruption in North America.

"We look forward to a day when the Administration sees fracked gas as having many of the same issues as coal – it is a fossil fuel of the past and a threat to public health. Nevertheless, the President's plan gives us hope that he will seek a legacy that protects our children and grandchildren by ending destructive oil drilling in the Arctic, rejecting dangerous nukes and the associated uranium mining, halting mountaintop removal of coal, abandoning dirty fossil fuels in favor of clean energy - and by making the critically important decision to reject the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL pipeline that would do enormous damage to land and the climate."

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