



**For Immediate Release
March 22, 2007**

**Contact: D. Fabian
Telephone: (202) 833-0060**

MANA Joins The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) And The National Environmental Trust (NET) To Call For Action On Climate Change

MANA, A National Latina Organization, attended the first ever “Latino Leadership Briefing on Global Warming,” held on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 20th. The briefing brought together key legislators and policy makers from across the country with leaders from national Hispanic organizations. The Latino community will be disproportionately affected by climate change, and it is clear that the time to act is now. MANA will continue the dialogue on climate change at our 2007 Annual Conference on Latina health and wealth in Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 24-26.

As Congresswoman Hilda Solis eloquently stated, “the debate on global warming is over, now it’s time to discuss how Latinos can be part of the solution.” In the coming years, climate change will be a growing issue affecting the health and wealth of Latinos and other minority groups around the country. Dr. Paul R. Epstein of Harvard University emphasized that as the atmosphere heats up, extreme weather will increase, and disease will spread even more readily. This will have a serious impact on the nearly 33 percent of Latinos in the U.S. who lack health insurance.

While problems loom, there room for hope as seen in legislation at the State level. The speaker of the California Assembly, Fabian Nunez, outlined how California turned environmental legislation (AB-32) calling for a 25 percent reduction in Carbon emissions by 2020, into an economic driver which will create an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 new jobs and billions of dollars in new investment. Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment and Public works, hopes to accomplish similar gains at a national level with Senate Bill S-309.

Private industry is working on solutions as well; Manik Roy of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change spoke about the innovative U.S. Climate Action Partnership, which joins 13 Non-Governmental Organizations and private businesses to develop new policies to “slow, stop and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions.” It is their view that solutions to climate change can create economic opportunities if done right.

MANA is proud to be part of the dialogue on climate change and the Latino community. We applaud event organizers Roger Rivera, President of the National Hispanic Environmental Council, and Angela Ledford Anderson, Vice President of the Climate Program at the National Environmental Trust, for bringing a Latino perspective to the table. MANA hopes to bring more Latinas into the discussion through outreach from our local chapters across the country, through our Annual Conference in May, and through our annual Hermanitas® Leadership Institute in July.

Founded in 1974, MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA) is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA’s mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Its four national goals are to: strengthen Latinas as community leaders; create vital Hispanic communities; advance public policy for an equal and just society; and grow and sustain a healthy organization. MANA achieves its mission and goals through its two premiere programs, the AvanZamos® Program, an adult Latina leadership training program and the HERMANITAS® Program for young Latinas.

###