

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE AL GORE IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
RECEIVING THE 2007 CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH AWARD FOR
NORTH AMERICA

First of all, let me thank the United Nations Environment Programme for their years of global leadership and apologize that I cannot be there in person to accept this award. My continuing efforts to communicate to audiences around the world about the climate crisis have prevented me from joining you here today—but please do not think it lessens my own, heartfelt appreciation for your work, the honor that I feel upon accepting the Champions of the Earth Award, and the humility that I feel when I see what my fellow Champions have accomplished.

You know that I believe that the climate crisis is the greatest challenge facing our generation. It has taken too long for global leaders, especially in the United States, to wake up to this fact and respond, but I have hope. Global public opinion, the private sector and elected officials around the world have taken up the call to action and begun to see the vast opportunities that can emerge from addressing this challenge.

I have every confidence that when the nations of the world come together to the common good, we will regain our moral authority not only to tackle the climate crisis, but also to address the other major environmental threats we face today. It was, after all, this common sense of mission that resulted in the creation of the United Nations which has laid the foundation for over 50 years of peace and prosperity.

Thank you again.