

Institute for Policy Integrity  
New York University School of Law

For Immediate Release  
February 11, 2013

Contact Edna Ishayik:  
(212) 998-6085  
[ednai@nyu.edu](mailto:ednai@nyu.edu)

**STATEMENT FROM POLICY INTEGRITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MIKE LIVERMORE, ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS**

*President Obama Has Broad Authority to Address Climate Change Without Congress.*

Professor Michael Livermore, Executive Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at the New York University School of Law, released the following statement ahead of President Obama's Tuesday night State of the Union Address:

In tomorrow's State of the Union, we'll be looking for President Obama to flesh out details on his call to "respond to the threat of climate change."

As he addresses Congress about his initiatives, it is important to remember that the President has the ability, and the legal authority, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through EPA regulation.

[Section 111](#) of the Clean Air Act easily gives the President the power to use market mechanisms (like a cap) to drive down carbon emissions from power plants. And using [Section 211](#) President Obama's EPA could target transportation fuels in a similar fashion.

It's obvious that a climate bill from the Hill is preferable. There may be some renewed interest now in making something happen. But if Congress won't budge, the President can go it alone in a way that is economically sensible.

Over the past four years, EPA has put several regulations in place to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. But none are as comprehensive or cost-effective as placing a cap on emissions. According to almost all economists, that means companies pay more than necessary to reduce emissions.

###

For interviews with Michael Livermore, call 347-881-3784 or email [ednai@nyu.edu](mailto:ednai@nyu.edu).

For background on the President's powers under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act, [click here](#).

For background on the President's powers under Section 211 and 231 of the Clean Air Act, [click here](#).

For an electronic copy of this statement, [click here](#).