STATEMENT FROM POLICY INTEGRITY DIRECTOR, RICHARD REVESZ,
ON PRESIDENT OBAMA’S CLIMATE PLAN

Limiting the carbon emissions from existing power plants is an important step in the
direction of developing a rational policy for controlling greenhouse gases. This
centerpiece of President Obama’s climate plan, announced today, will over time
significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gases the United States sends up into the
atmosphere. In doing so, we will help to avoid the significant economic risks that many
economists say will come from an altered climate.

What is missing from the President’s plan is an explicit mention of using the power of the
market to drive down the cost of these measures. Market mechanisms would deliver the
environmental and economic benefits of this regulation at the lowest possible cost to
businesses and we urge EPA to include them as it works to implement controls on
existing power plants.

On a different front, those who claim this rule would “kill jobs,” should be asked to be
explicit about the economic analysis on which they base such statements. Too often,
such analyses are not properly designed to predict the effects of greenhouse gas
regulation on employment across the country, as our report on jobs and regulation shows.
These studies should be scrutinized carefully before they are used to support anti-
regulatory claims.

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