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NEWS RELEASE

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GREENPEACE FOUNDER: TODAY'S ACTIVISTS ARE MISGUIDED

CLEVELAND, June 3, 2005 – Terming today's environmental activists "anti-human," "anti-science and technology," "anti-trade," "anti-business" and "just plain anti-civilization," Greenpeace founder Patrick Moore told members of the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association that groups like Greenpeace must look beyond "bad guys" if they hope to find solutions to today's environmental challenges. Moore, who was a founder of Greenpeace in 1971, left the group in the 1980s and has since become one of its most outspoken critics. He addressed CFFA at its annual meeting in Cleveland.

"All social movements evolve from an earlier period of polarization and confrontation during which a minority struggles to convince society that its cause is true and just," Moore noted, "eventually followed by a time of reconciliation if a majority of the population accepts the values of the new movement." Moore maintains that this happened to the environmental movement in the 1980s. It was then, he said, that he made the transition "from the politics of confrontation to the politics of building consensus." Environmental extremists reject consensus politics in favor of continued confrontation, Moore said, and have ushered in an era of "zero-tolerance and left-wing politics." Moore cited five examples of environmental extremism:

He recapped the saga of Shell Oil's Brent Spar oil rig, stating that after the company relented on plans to dispose of the rig in deep water in the North Atlantic, investigators found it had been properly cleaned and did not present the environmental hazard Greenpeace had claimed. Greenpeace apologized to the company, but did not change its position on deep-sea disposal of rigs – a practice that, if done properly, could save hundreds of millions, even billions of dollars in unnecessary costs, Moore said.

Moore next cited the current debate over exotic species, noting that wholesale campaigns against them ignore the fact that not all exotic species are detrimental. World agriculture, he said, is largely based on species that originated elsewhere.

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He next focused on the issue of biotechnology and genetically modified foods, noting that “the campaign of fear now being waged against genetic modification is based largely on fantasy and a complete lack of respect for science and logic.” Moore added that genetically modified foods may help reduce the use of pesticides, increase yield rates for crops and reduce land usage for crop production.

Moore spoke briefly about the subject of climate change, observing that while there is clear evidence that the climate is changing, there is little consensus about why it is happening or what should be done to stop it. “Climate change is not about scientific certainty,” Moore stated, “it is about the evaluation and management of risk.”

Likewise, Moore criticized recent claims that a “mass extinction” of species is underway. “There is enough bad science and misinformation in the popular press as it is. One can only hope that the present tendency to ignore science and logic ... will eventually come to an end,” he added.

While Moore stated that “the mainstream of the environmental movement has fallen prey to misguided priorities, misinformation, dogmatism and self-interest,” he did identify the elements of a “rational” environmental policy for the 21st century. He told the audience that policy should include:

- An economy based on renewable energy and material resources
- Voluntary population control through education and empowerment
- A globally unified approach to land and energy use and resource consumption
- A better approach to gardening, including the use of pesticides, fertilizers and biotechnology
- Control of urban sprawl
- An end to deforestation of the tropics

“There are doomsayers who predict the collapse of the global ecosystem,” Moore noted. “There are the technological optimists who believe that we can feed 12 billion people and solve all our problems with science and technology. I do not believe that either of these extremes makes sense. There is a middle road based on science and logic, the combination of which is sometimes referred to as common sense.”

In 1991, Moore founded Greenspirit, a consultancy focusing on environmental policy and communications. He is a frequent lecturer on the subjects of natural resources, biodiversity, energy and climate change.

The Chemical Fabrics & Film Association is an international trade association representing the major manufacturers of polymer-based fabric and film products used in the building and construction, medical and automotive markets, and many other industries. CFFA provides education on the benefits and uses of chemical fabrics and film, and supports technical research and standards development within the industry. The organization was founded in 1927 and is based in Cleveland, Ohio.