A recent poll conducted by Latino Decisions on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Voces Verdes shows that an overwhelming majority of Latinos (9 out of 10) want the government to take action against the dangers of climate change. While the debate surrounding climate change moves beyond the scientific evidence – last September, the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report reviewed by 600 researchers from 32 countries showing that human activity is causing climate change – the policy and economic focus must quickly move towards understanding the different impacts on vulnerable populations so that we can design and implement programs to mitigate and adapt to the changes we're already observing.

Manuel Pastor is a Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California where he currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE). His research focuses on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. He holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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Adrianna Quintero is the founder and director of the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) Latino Advocacy program and a senior attorney, Adrianna launched NRDC’s Latino outreach along with the website, La Onda Verde or LOV. Most recently, Adrianna founded Voces Verdes and aims to connect Latino organizations, business and community leaders with government decision-makers on climate and clean air issues.

Rafael Hurtado Jr. works as a Community Organizer for the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) located on the Southwest side of Chicago. Within LVEJO, he has worked on the several campaigns such as: Open-Space, a campaign which was successful in the remediation of a superfund site which is currently being converted into the first new park Little Village has seen in over 80-years, and the Clean Power Campaign, which was successful in the shutdown of both the Crawford & Fisk Coal power plants.

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