

## **The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow Labor Advisory Committee**

**DATE:** 11/08/06

*This policy statement was written by the AHT Labor Advisory Committee as requested by the AHT Board.*

Environmental campaigns which seek AHT endorsements need to take into account worker health and safety, jobs and economic considerations when building alliances and developing strategic campaigns. AHT has active involvement of Labor Unions and organizations which represent thousands of working people in local, state and international structures. Therefore labor representatives view an AHT endorsement as a reflection of those involved with organized labor.

No one should feel forced to choose between job protection and environmental protection. Even though an environmental campaign may not seem, on the face of it, to direct itself at targeting jobs, organizers of environmental campaigns should have an analysis of how the campaign could impact workers and the economy. Precautions to protect the groups impacted by the campaign should be researched and spelled out in the planning process for the campaign.

Creating strategic alliances between labor and environmental groups will lay the groundwork to hold corporations accountable to fight for safe workplaces **and** healthy communities.

AHT and the Labor Advisory Committee suggest that coalitions and environmental organizations include the following as they seek AHT endorsement:

**Analysis of the benefits and potential adverse impacts to workers, jobs and the economy.** Seek information and participation of potential allies including unions and worker advocacy organizations.

**Inclusion of a “Just Transition“ policy that addresses environmental protection with job protection.** A *Just Transition* approach includes a fund that would provide income, benefits and job training for impacted workers; commit resources to researching alternative technologies and processes that would retain jobs; and redevelopment and health care funds to communities living adjacent to the facilities affected by environmental and health policies. (post the AHT Just Transition on website)