

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA TO UNVEIL ENVIRONMENTAL PLATFORM & MODEL LEGISLATION INITIATIVE

Seattle, WA – November 8, 2013 – *News Release* – The Young Democrats of America hosted a press conference this morning unveiling a new environmental platform and model legislation program for states and municipalities.

"As young people, we are more directly affected by government policies," said Atima Omara, president of the Young Democrats of America. "With our new model legislation initiative, we are working to empower our chapters to ensure that our progressive policies and ideals are enacted at the local and state levels of government."

The organization's new environmental platform focused on two key policy issues: energy policy and multimodal transportation. "For too long, environmental concerns have been secondary to jobs and corporate interests - this is a false paradigm," said Omara. "We can grow our economy while having a cleaner planet."

Specific to energy policy, YDA will be issuing its first formal regulatory comments to the Environmental Protection Agency in support of the coal-fired power plant regulation and specific comments on technical aspects of the regulation.

The organization will also take a formal stance supporting the White House's and Department of Energy's manufacturing tax credit and "Better Buildings, Better Plants" program to decrease energy usage by energy-intensive manufacturing industries.

Additionally, YDA will be utilizing the legislative initiative to support water bottle bans, plastic bag reduction measures and bottle bills. "Bottle bills have a marked increase in recycling rates and provide a better quality of recycled material to industry," said Omara. "Supporting this type of legislation will result in decreased energy usage, greater personal engagement in environmental issues and more clean jobs."

Executive Vice President Erin Carlstrom spoke regarding YDA's position on multimodal transportation. "Young people are impacted by transportation whether we are going to work, school or out with friends," said Carlstrom. "YDA will begin advocating for more, greener and safer transit choices for our home cities, counties and states."

As Vice Mayor of Santa Rosa, CA, Carlstrom led a legislative push to protect vulnerable users. "Cyclists account for two percent of all traffic fatalities and pedestrians deaths increased four percent in 2011," cited Carlstrom. "Our vulnerable users ordinance provides real recourse for victims of harassment and aggressive behavior on the road."

YDA will be adding this type of legislative within the model legislation initiative.

Reporters with further questions about the platform should contact James Lewis (jlewis@yda.org) for comment or to schedule an interview with Omara or Carlstrom.

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The Young Democrats of America is the nation's largest youth partisan organization. It represents and advocates for the Democratic values of America's youth while working to elected Democrats and train the next generation of Party and elected leaders.