



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Friday, January 9th 2015**

**CONTACT: Wibke Heymach (586) 344 2603**

## **Illinois moms applaud Senator Kirk's amended comments on climate change and urge action**

CHICAGO--- The Illinois chapter of Moms Clean Air Force (MCAF) was dismayed by recent comments by Senator Kirk regarding climate change. In an interview with *E&E news* the Senator was quoted saying "Climate change isn't caused by industrial greenhouse gas emissions," thus significantly undermining the nation's responsibility to act on climate. Today - after pushback from Illinois families - he clarified his view on climate change to the Chicago Tribune. Sen. Kirk's spokesperson clarified that the Senator believes that "climate change is real and human beings definitely play a role."

Despite admitting that human beings are driving climate change, Senator Kirk also clearly stated that he was not in favor of taking action to stem the dangerous rise of climate change - a view not shared by nearly the nearly 19,000 MCAF members in Illinois. While **Moms Clean Air Force Illinois** applauds the Senator's willingness to admit the connection between human pollution and climate change, his comments today simply distort the truth. It is not political correctness that took over climate science - as he stated in the *E&E* article - but partisan politicking. The biggest polluters spent over \$721 million dollars in the last election cycle and they are depending on the Senate - Senator Kirk included - to do their dirty work in Washington, DC.

Moms Clean Air Force, a children's health organization, believes that partisan politics should not affect meaningful action on climate change that is based in science. "In the House, Kirk was a champion of clean air. Now his record on climate issues in the Senate is poor. He is siding with those who want unlimited carbon pollution from America's dirtiest power plants," says **Dominique Browning, Director of Moms Clean Air Force**. Children are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution. In Illinois, 10% of children suffer from asthma. Air pollution not only drives climate change but it also contributes to smog--a trigger of asthma, heart attacks, and respiratory illness. Illinois communities and children need more than the simple admission that climate change is caused by human action. Illinois families need leaders that will act decisively to curb climate change - their children's very lives depend on it.

###

*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children's health. We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events. More here: <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/>*