



**March 31, 2016
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**GreenLatinos' Statement in Honor of the Iconic Cesar E. Chavez
A Beacon for Justice from our Community, for our Community**

WASHINGTON, DC --Today, GreenLatinos joins the world in celebrating and reflecting on the life of Cesar E. Chavez, a formidable labor and civil rights leader who awoke our conscience from the complacency and consumerism that disregarded the human toll of our agricultural system. Cesar raised awareness about the inhumane treatment of farmworkers and the pesticide poisoning of the men, women and children that help bring food to our tables. He taught us about the urgent need to rise up against injustices and do everything in our power to make a difference in our communities.

Cesar demonstrated the power of community organizing and collective action to put a national spotlight on the inequalities that deprived farmworkers of access to basic working conditions such as clean water, bathrooms, hand washing facilities and a break for lunch. Decent wages and safety on the job could only come when the dignity of farmworkers was recognized, not by empty words, but fomented by a union contract with the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

The mission of GreenLatinos is to advance an environmental agenda that is inclusive and representative of the unique views and needs of the Latino community. The priority is always on the impact of environmental and conservation issues on Latinos, with a focus on the most vulnerable segments of our population.

To this end and under the leadership of Board Member Andrea Delgado, GreenLatinos worked hand in hand with farmworkers and farmworker advocacy organizations to secure an Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that finally prohibits children from serving as pesticide handlers; expands the content and quality and increases the frequency of worker safety training; provides new rules on decontamination and personal protective equipment; and improves the information that workers receive about the pesticides that have been applied at their workplace. GreenLatinos led the way to ensure that farmworkers were involved at every stage of the rulemaking process and we will continue to do so throughout the implementation and enforcement process in 2016 and beyond.

We encourage more Latino leaders, that have a unique understanding of the challenges facing our communities, to join us in this work. As we remember him, we know that the fight for farmworker protections is ongoing and GreenLatinos will continue to honor his legacy via our work and advocacy.