**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[DATE]**
**Contact:** Name,Organization, Phone, Email
www.handsacrossthesand.org

**Citizens of [TOWN] Joined Hands Against Dirty Fuels**

*XXXXNUMBER OF PEOPLE Joined Hands Against Dirty Fuels at XXXXBEACH/LOCATION as part of Eleventh Annual International "Hands Across the Sand/Land”*

[City, State] - As part of the international Hands Across the Sand/Land day of action, residents of [TOWN] met at [LOCATION] today to raise awareness about the dangers of dirty fuels and the need to speed the transition to available, affordable clean energy solutions. The line of people joining hands across the [beach/park/etc] was a strong show of support for clean energy at a time when a host of new dirty fuel proposals are under consideration.

[If appropriate, insert a sentence here about locally relevant fossil fuel activity-- In [location] we are particularly faced with the threat of…“opening Alaska and the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling and seismic testing,” “coal ash contamination of our rivers,” “groundwater pollution from fracking wells,” “oil and gas spills,” “exacerbated sea level rise from continued use of fossil fuels”, etc.

[Local representative] said, "The damage from dirty fuels to America's coasts and special places, whether here in [location] or as far away as the Arctic, is far reaching -- from lost tourism revenue to worsening climate disruption. Today we're uniting against dirty fuels and speaking out for clean energy that will benefit us all."

Similar events were held across the country and around the world. Thousands of citizens joined against a range of dirty fuel projects from offshore drilling and seismic testing to hydraulic fracturing, tar sands and coal. The global response was a clear indication that the future of our planet rests on the protection of ecosystem services and the switch to economies powered by renewable energy.

The Hands Across the Sand/Land events are aimed at steering America's energy policy away from its dependence on fossil fuels and towards clean energy.  The goal is to show leaders in all levels of government, that public support is strong for moving away from dirty fuels and adopting policies that encourage clean energy instead.

"We can't afford to waste any more time finding riskier and more expensive ways to drill for oil," said [local person]. "We should be putting our innovation to work to create a 21st century transportation system that will end our dependence on oil and protect America's coasts."

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**Background:** Floridian Dave Rauschkolb founded Hands Across The Sand/Land in October 2009. Hands Across The Sand/Land is endorsed by national and local organizations: Oceana, Surfrider Foundation, SoWal, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Sierra Club, Bud & Alley’s, and Healthy Gulf.