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Contact:  
Randall .R. Morton, President  
The Progressive Forum  
713-664-0020 office  
713-702-2245 cell  
[info@progressiveforumhouston.org](mailto:info@progressiveforumhouston.org)  
[www.progressiveforumhouston.org](http://www.progressiveforumhouston.org)

Al Gore to Speak at Houston's Progressive Forum on Global Warming

PHOTO: Al Gore

The Progressive Forum, Houston, will present "Al Gore On Global Warming: An Inconvenient Truth," Wednesday, June 7, 2006, at The Hobby Center, Sarofim Hall, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Gore will speak on the urgent need to solve global warming and offer solutions which strengthen our economy and way of life. He will present a visually stunning, multi-media presentation, which will be projected onto a big screen.

Mr. Gore's Houston appearance is his first U.S. event launching his new book, also called *An Inconvenient Truth* (Rodale Books). The book will be on sale at the event, they will be first edition, first printing books, and Mr. Gore will sign the books after his presentation. The Progressive Forum will also give out free book plates commemorating Mr. Gore's Houston appearance as his first U.S. book event for *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Two days after Mr. Gore's appearance at The Progressive Forum, the movie of the same name will premiere at the Landmark River Oaks Theater Friday June 9. The documentary chronicles Al Gore's travels around the world building awareness on the need to focus on global warming, what he calls a

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planetary emergency, as well as his personal history with the issue for over 30 years.

Randall R. Morton, president of The Progressive Forum said, “My hope is that Mr. Gore’s speech in the world’s energy capital, coinciding with the movie and book releases, will help bring a new level of critical attention to global warming. Mainstream scientists are saying we’ve got a short window of time to solve this crisis.”

Mr. Gore’s June speech will cap the first full season of The Progressive Forum which will have included Jared Diamond, Seymour Hersh, and Molly Ivins. The Progressive Forum premiered in June of 2005 at The Hobby Center with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Houston Mayor Bill White speaking on the environment. Mr. Gore’s Houston address this June will mark the first anniversary of The Progressive Forum.

The Progressive Forum is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by presenting the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and humanities as well as politics and public affairs. It’s progressive viewpoint is rooted in the mainstream constitutional, enlightenment, and egalitarian values of America’s founding fathers, a bedrock of moderate values that need affirming, now more than ever.

Morton said that The Progressive Forum is the nation’s first value-based civic speaker organization that he knows of. It is also the first to pioneer a new model in the field of speaker events, operating as a performing arts company to deliver a higher quality experience and larger audiences, using the finest theaters, the world’s top intellectual stars, and convenient box office services.

Founder Randall Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc., for 30 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum, which became the largest speaker platform in the petroleum industry whose surplus went to Houston's SEARCH-Homeless Project. While earning a degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.

Former Vice President Al Gore's political career began when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 where he served eight years representing the then 4<sup>th</sup> District in Tennessee. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and was re-elected in 1990. He was inaugurated as the 45<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States on January 20, 1993. His pioneering efforts to protect the earth's ozone layer and to clean up toxic-waste dumps were outlined in his best selling book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (1992). He led the Clinton Administration's efforts to protect the environment in a way that also strengthens the economy, such as working with the Big Three auto makers to support the development of a new generation of fuel and energy-efficient vehicles, and working to combat global warming in a way that also creates new jobs, by helping America lead the estimated \$400 billion worldwide market for new technologies that clean up the environment.

Al Gore was born on March 31, 1948, the son of former U.S. Senator Albert Gore, Sr. and Pauline Gore. Raised in Carthage, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.,

he received a degree in government with honors from Harvard University in 1969. In 1970, Al Gore married the former Mary Elizabeth “Tipper” Aitcheson and together they have four children and two grandchildren. Mr. Gore resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

For tickets, go online at [www.progressiveforumhouston.org](http://www.progressiveforumhouston.org), or call 713-315-2525, or visit the Hobby Center box office at 800 Bagby Street. For more information, call The Progressive Forum at 713-664-0020.