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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Peter A. A. Berle Environmental Integrity Award Winners Announced  
James E. Hansen and David Foster Share Inaugural Awards**

*April 29, 2009, NYC*—The Century Foundation, in cooperation with the National Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Environmental Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, and former colleagues of Peter A. A. Berle, today announced the winners of the first Peter A. A. Berle Environmental Integrity Award. James E. Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), and David Foster, executive director of the Blue Green Alliance, are the first recipients of this award, which is intended to recognize demonstrated courage and integrity in defense of the environment by public officials and private citizens in the United States.

The Peter A. A. Berle Environmental Integrity Award is given annually to up to two U.S. citizens who, through action or scholarship, provide innovative leadership in helping the United States and the world confront the challenges of climate change, renewable energy, depletion of the oceans, species extinction, air, water and soil contamination, and the urban environment. The winners were selected by a panel that included representatives from The Century Foundation and the leading environmental organizations that joined in announcing the award.

James E. Hansen received the award for his pioneering role in helping the United States and the world begin to confront the challenge of climate change. Dr. Hansen has devoted the past two decades to studying climate change. His testimony before Congress in 1988, in which he declared that mounting scientific evidence showed that human activities were warming the planet with possibly dangerous consequences, played an important role in persuading the United States and other nations to support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which President George H. W. Bush signed in 1992. When President George W. Bush repudiated the Kyoto Protocol after taking office, Dr. Hansen continued to press the case for concerted action, even when speaking out threatened his position as a federal employee. He continues, based on his and others' scientific studies, to press for urgent government and private action to reduce our nation's GHG emissions before global warming, sea level rise, and the consequences of current practices become irreversible and catastrophic.

David Foster received the award for being a transformative force in bringing together the twin issues of social justice and environmental sustainability. For the past twenty years Mr. Foster has been among the labor movement's leading environmental advocates. The Blue Green Alliance, which he leads, is a national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the green economy and advancing workers' rights around the globe. Under his leadership, the Blue Green Alliance unites more than six million people in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment, and a green economy with a focus that includes global warming, clean energy, fair trade, and reducing toxins in the workplace.

In announcing the award winners, Richard C. Leone, President of The Century Foundation, said "Peter Berle's life demonstrated a level of courage and integrity in defense of the environment that is all too

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unusual in public life in the United States today. David Foster and James Hansen represent the values that Peter Berle lived by. ”

Peter A. A. Berle was a member of the Board of Trustees of The Century Foundation from 1971 to 2007, serving as its chairman and treasurer during his tenure; was president of the National Audubon Society from 1984 to 1994; and worked closely throughout his career with both the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund. He served in the New York Legislature and as New York State’s commissioner of environmental conservation, as president of the City Parks Council, as chairman of the Joint Public Advisory Committee to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, as vice-chairman of the New York Independent System Operator (which manages New York’s electric power grid), and as president of the Stockbridge Land Trust and on numerous other civic bodies. He helped establish the Adirondack Park Agency, wrote a guide on how citizens could influence public policy, was a leading environmental lawyer from the inception of modern environmental law, and provided trenchant environmental commentaries on National Public Radio for more than ten years after he retired from Audubon.

“Peter Berle lived by his principles both as a private citizen and as a public servant,” said Mr. Leone. “He believed the environmental challenges facing our nation require creative thinking, straight talk, and principled action and that environmental progress also requires the rule of law and social justice. These are the qualities that our country needs today, and that the Berle Environmental Integrity Award is intended to foster.”

John Flicker, Audubon’s president, noted that “Peter Berle was a mentor for so many of today’s environmental leaders, and his vision lives on in their work.” Peter Lehner, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, said of the Berle Award, “Peter appreciated more profoundly than most the importance of environmental safeguards in shaping our society. His advocacy for effective and tough health protections and the creation of the majestic Adirondack State Park continue to benefit all New Yorkers and others around the world. We are grateful for his legacy and mindful of all that he did to further our mutual goals.” James Tripp, general counsel of the Environmental Defense Fund, noted that the Berle Award was particularly timely. “Peter Berle was the ideal model of an environmental leader with vision, good judgment, integrity, and a willingness to take tough stands when it counts,” he said. “Peter’s leadership from the beginning of the environmental movement set the highest of standards for environmental attorneys,” said Louis Alexander of the State Bar Environmental Law Section. “His life continues to inspire us to further the work to which he was committed and to achieve the ideals to which he was dedicated.”

For more information about the award, contact Carol Starmack at [starmack@tcf.org](mailto:starmack@tcf.org) or (212) 535-4441. For media inquiries, contact Christy Hicks (TCF) at [hicks@tcf.org](mailto:hicks@tcf.org) or (212) 535-4441, Jenny Powers (NRDC) at [jpowers@nrdc.org](mailto:jpowers@nrdc.org) or (212) 727-4566, Delta Willis (National Audubon Society) at [dwillis@audubon.org](mailto:dwillis@audubon.org) or (212) 979-3197, James Tripp (EDF) at [jtripp@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:jtripp@environmentaldefense.org) or (212) 616-1247, Lou Alexander (former Chair, Environmental Law Section, NYSBA) at [laalexan@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:laalexan@gw.dec.state.ny.us) or (518) 402-8537.

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The Century Foundation conducts public policy research and analyses of economic, social, and foreign policy issues, including inequality, retirement security, election reform, media studies, homeland security, and international affairs. The foundation produces books, reports, and other publications, convenes task forces and working groups, and operates seven informational Web sites. With offices in New York City and Washington, D.C., The Century Foundation is nonprofit and nonpartisan and was founded in 1919 by Edward A. Filene.