

Contact Maine's Senators Today

Urge Strong Climate Action Now!



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Senator Susan Collins

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Write a Letter-to-the-Editor

The letters to-the-editor section of your local newspaper is an ideal forum for getting your message to our congressional delegation. For tips on writing a letter-to-the editor visit:

http://www.nrcm.org/take_action_write.asp

Talking Points for Federal Climate and Clean Energy Legislation

- The science on climate change has been clear and we've understood the threats of climate change for too long. With leadership in Washington, we are now poised for meaningful action essential for the protection of Maine's environment – and the health of our planet.
- Strong legislation is needed to put the United States on the path toward reducing greenhouse gas pollution 80% of 2005 levels by 2050.
- We need comprehensive legislation that puts a cap on carbon emissions and then ratchets that cap down over time, increases investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and mitigates the impact of energy cost increases on low-income households.
- Both the House and Senate versions of the climate bill have the necessary pieces for successful legislation. They are not perfect bills. We think improvements can be made, but we are encouraged that Congress is finally deciding to act.
- Central to the bills is a cap-and-trade program similar to what has proved to be highly successful in reducing acid rain, caused by sulfur emissions from power plants.
- The bills internalize the cost of carbon dioxide pollution so that it no longer is free to pollute the atmosphere with CO₂ emissions in a way that will cause harm to the planet and future generations.
- NRCM's bottom line is that we support passage of comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation. We believe Congress must adopt strong climate policy, and Maine's Congressional delegation should provide leadership to help make this happen.
- We encourage support for amendments that would strengthen the overall effectiveness of the final bill and result in quicker reductions in carbon emissions, including:
 - Increase the Renewable Electricity Standard to 30% by 2020 to ensure more renewable energy use and greater energy efficiency measures. This will help deliver more clean energy jobs into the U.S. economy more quickly and save Americans money.
 - Ensure that all coal plants meet strict global warming emissions standards. Maintain or strengthen existing authority under the Clean Air Act for the Environmental Protection Agency to establish limits for global warming emissions from coal plants.
 - Reduce permit allocations to polluting industries and redistribute them to programs that deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy, create green jobs and train workers to fill them, and protect natural resources and vulnerable communities here and around the world.

