

Talking Points for The American Clean Energy and Security bill **(Waxman-Markey H.R. 2454)**

- The science on global warming has been clear and we've understood the threats of global warming 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 this year 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.
- The American Clean Energy and Security bill, sponsored by Chairmen Waxman and Markey, has the necessary pieces for successful legislation. It is not a perfect bill. We think improvements can be made, but we are encouraged that Congress is finally deciding to act.
- The bill has at its heart 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.
- This bill internalizes 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 the American Clean Energy and Security bill. We believe Congress must adopt strong climate action this year, 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 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.

