

COALITION CALLS FOR MARKEY-WAXMAN ‘DO OVER’ AS ENERGY LEGISLATION IS HIJACKED BY INDUSTRY LOBBYISTS

Washington, D.C. – A grassroots coalition of 130 organizations devoted to moving the U.S. from coal/oil-based energy to an economy based on renewable energy today broke ranks with some leading national environment groups in denouncing the proposed Waxman-Markey energy and climate bill. TheCLEAN.org (<http://www.TheCLEAN.org>) issued a statement today that pointed out: “The Waxman-Markey bill falls far short of the policies needed to make the transition from a dirty energy economy to a clean energy economy.”

TheCLEAN.org statement continues: **“Despite the changes sought by the electorate in the 2008 elections nothing has changed in the way lobbyists impose their will with a willing Congress on legislation. Corporate polluters, in 2009 alone, spent \$80 million in lobbying for provisions of an energy bill that would satisfy their interests; Exxon-Mobil spent \$9.3 million alone. Also, several of the national ‘green’ groups decided to cooperate with industry and Members of Congress in getting a bill through. NRDC, the Environmental Defense Fund and Pew all sat the table and, whether or not it was their intent to do so, provided ‘cover’ for these bad policies. However, Greenpeace, Public Citizen and Friends of the Earth have called for the bill to be ‘fixed or ditched.’ CLEAN’s view is similar - change the bill or don’t pass it.”**

TheCLEAN.org urged the following steps to fix the Waxman-Markey bill:

- Dump the cap and trade provisions and carbon capture and sequestration provisions as they currently stand.
- Pass a federal Renewable Electricity Standard that mandates at least 25% renewables by 2025.
- Pass a federal Energy Efficiency Resource Standards that requires at least a 15% reduction in energy usage by electric utilities by 2020.
- Pass separate climate legislation that forces the auction of allowances or imposes a carbon tax on polluters and gives the proceeds to the public (a revenue neutral carbon tax).

Civil Society Institute President and Founder Pam Solo said: **“The Waxman Markey bill is in need of a real ‘do over.’ While there are some national groups weighing in on the energy and climate policy direction of Congress and the Obama Administration, the echo chamber conversation in Washington seems deaf to the real concerns of consumers and taxpayers and the intense desire for policies that lead to the much promised change in politics. From volatile energy prices to the horrific coal sludge disaster in Tennessee, the signs are clear: It’s time for decisive bold action to ensure a clean, renewable energy economy for America. America’s energy policy, and the self-interested people and politics that control it, have created a reliance on fossil fuels that endangers our health, safety, environment, and economic prosperity. Prior to the economic downturn the market indicated a clear preference for energy efficiency and renewable investments over investments in coal-fired power. The industry-driven Waxman-Markey legislation halts that progress in favor of coal-fired power. For all practical purposes, coal-fired power is a financially dead duck. The only reason investments in coal-fired power have a chance now is due to influence peddling and misleading ad campaigns.”**

Grant Smith, executive director, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Indianapolis, said: **“We are calling on Congress to enact smart energy and climate policy. It is time to phase out reliance on coal and**

invest in the energy infrastructure for this century. If the coal industry thinks they can invest carbon capture and storage technology for coal fired plants (CCS), then they should pay for it. Nuclear power is costly, it takes more than a decade to build one plant, and there are no answers in sight to the huge problems of waste, proliferation and susceptibility to terrorist attacks. Efficiency is our greatest short-term energy investment, particularly when it is paired with rapid expansion of wind and solar made available over a modern power grid. The time for action is now! We can't let America get so far behind in the global race for clean energy solutions that we end up with a new national nightmare: importing the next generation of energy technology."

Janet Keating, executive director, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Huntington, W.V., said: **"While we remain hopeful that Congress will do the right thing on energy and climate, we are not prepared to 'give away the farm' just so that we can say that we helped to get legislation passed. There are some costs that are too high to pay when it comes to the environment, clean air and clean water. We urge Congress to either fix the Waxman-Markey bill or dump it and start over."**

Shortcomings identified by TheCLEAN.org in the Waxman-Markey bill are:

- It provides \$10 billion in research for carbon capture sequestration (CCS) research signaling to the coal industry that Congress envisions an energy future base on coal. CCS would still create environmental disasters like the destruction of mountaintops and the pollution of rivers.
- The requirements that polluters create energy from renewable energy sources are pathetic. They are so weak that they will make little to no difference in the deployment of renewable energy technology compared to what states and the market are doing now.
- Utilities must reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 17% by 2020. [Included in this provision are loopholes called "offsets" -- i.e. if a utility plants trees in Brazil, they can be credited with reducing carbon emissions at home -- which may lead to no actual reductions in CO2 emissions.] In other words the cap on emissions is too weak and loopholes further erode the ability for the US to adequately address global warming.
- The bill's provisions for the trade (economic) part of cap and trade favor the utility and oil industries over ratepayers and consumers by giving these industries hundreds of billions of dollars in carbon allowances (assets) while providing no protection for electric utility ratepayers for rate increases related to the sale and cost of allowances.
- The legislation provides for the appearance of a moratorium on coal plants. In reality, the bill exempts 45 coal plants that are in various stages of permitting or approval.

By contrast, the key provisions of the Citizens' Clean Energy Economy Act framed by TheCLEAN.org are:

- Encourage residential energy efficiency by enacting a tax credit of \$7500.
- Appropriate \$500 billion in investment in renewable energy over a ten year period, including transiting to a new digital electricity grid.
- Enact a renewable electricity standard of 30% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- Extend the production tax credit for wind projects for 10 years or enact national renewable energy production payments (also know as a Feed-in Tariff) to encourage continued expansion of renewable energy.
- Appropriate \$45 billion in direct government spending for public building retrofits, expansion of mass transit, freight rail and smart grid systems.
- Require new federal housing to meet LEED gold standards immediately, and existing federal buildings to meet LEED gold standards within 5 years.
- Create a Clean Energy Job Corps that will provide job training and apprenticeship programs to enable workers to develop the skills needed for clean energy jobs

- Implement an economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and auction carbon allowances to finance a transition to a clean energy economy.
- Enact domestic incentives that reward forest owners, farmers and ranchers when they plant trees, restore grasslands or undertake farming practices that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Establish tax credits for cars using plug-in electric, hybrid, or clean diesel technologies graded on miles per gallon efficiencies.
- Enact a moratorium on building nuclear power plants and coal fired plants in order to transition to a clean, energy efficient economy while at the same time phase in renewable and energy efficiency technologies that eliminate fossil fuel usage and nuclear power by 2050.
- No public funds for carbon sequestration research.

To learn more about TheCLEAN.org and Citizens' Clean Energy Economy Act, go to <http://www.TheClean.org>.

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