



ASK YOUR U.S. SENATOR TO SUPPORT “Cap and Trade”

The Lieberman-Warner Act America’s Climate Security Act

America’s Climate Security Act, Senate Bill 2191, would establish a federal program to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions enough between now and 2050 to avert catastrophic global warming. The program is crafted to accomplish a gradual reduction so as not to harm America’s economy or impose hardship on its citizens.

If passed by Congress, America’s Climate Security Act would establish a “cap” on the level of greenhouse-gases that U.S. electric power, transportation, and manufacturing sources can emit, which would gradually grow tighter over time. Together, these three sectors of the economy account for 75% of U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions.

The cap begins in 2012, at that time requiring 2005 emission levels. It will then be lowered year-by-year at a constant, gradual rate, designed to drop 15% by 2020 (down to the 1990 emissions level) and 70% by 2050.

Making conservative assumptions about what the rest of the world does about emissions, the Environmental Protection Agency projects that reducing U.S. emissions by this much would keep the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere below 500 parts per million at the end of this century. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, keeping the concentration below 500 ppm would avoid a high risk of global warming that would cause severe impacts.

In addition to placing a declining emissions cap over electric power, transportation, and manufacturing sources, America’s Climate Security Act also:

- Strengthens energy efficiency standards for appliances and buildings in order to address commercial and residential emissions that are not covered by the cap
- Devotes resources from polluter payments to help consumers reduce their energy consumption through efficiency
- Invests in zero-and low-carbon technologies, such as helping to retool automobile manufacturing to produce cleaner, more fuel efficient cars and trucks
- Protects wildlife and natural resources by requiring polluters to pay into a fund to help wildlife survive global warming
- Controls compliance costs by allowing companies to trade, save, and borrow emission allowances – the “trade” part of “Cap and Trade”