



An Overview of the Lieberman-Warner Global Warming Bill

Legislation to cap global warming pollution may soon come to the Senate floor. While it's good that the Senate wants to address this growing problem, the Lieberman-Warner bill is not the answer. It would enrich polluters while failing to do what scientists say is necessary to avoid global warming catastrophe. The bill must be dramatically improved or replaced. Friends of the Earth opposes passage of the bill in its current form.

Fails to solve global warming

Scientists say that in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, the United States must launch an immediate effort to cut its global warming pollution and that this effort must reduce emissions to least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Such a cut is the bare minimum that a political solution must achieve, as scientific knowledge continues to develop and recent studies show climate change is occurring more quickly than almost anyone had anticipated. Unfortunately, even if the Lieberman-Warner bill achieves its goals by 2050, emissions will have only been reduced about 64 percent from 2005 levels. This is an inadequate response that doesn't solve the problem.

Giveaways to corporate polluters

The Lieberman-Warner bill gives up to a trillion dollars to corporate polluters over 38 years. The giveaways come in two forms. First, pollution permits (worth up to \$437 billion) will be handed to industry for free. Instead of this approach, polluters should be required to pay for all emissions through a 100 percent auction of pollution permits. Second, the revenues raised by the bill's auctions should be invested wisely; instead, much revenue is directed to polluters through hundreds of billions of dollars of subsidies to the coal, oil and automobile industries, and potentially to nuclear power. A detailed analysis of the bill's giveaways is available at www.foe.org.

Fails to invest revenues fairly and wisely

Revenues generated by the bill's auctions must be spent fairly and wisely. Instead of giving money to polluters, the bill should use revenues to fund:

Energy efficiency and clean energy: Using energy more efficiently and promoting clean and safe sources of energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Economic growth and assistance: The bill must invest in green jobs and assist low and middle income Americans as they cope with increased energy costs.

Adaptation: Vulnerable communities in around the world need help to prepare for the impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, and fires.

Clean transportation: Funds from this bill can encourage public transportation and cleaner cars, which can also significantly reduce our dependence on oil.

For more information about the Lieberman-Warner bill, visit www.foe.org