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Around the world, climate change is already impacting the daily lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Facing more intense storms, drought, disruption of water and food supplies, and increased rates of disease, impoverished communities bear a disproportionate burden of these impacts, even though they are the least responsible for creating them and the least able to cope with the effects. It is in the national interest of the U.S. to assist developing countries with the climate crisis. The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (S.3036) recognizes that global climate change is likely to exacerbate competition and conflict over water and other natural resources, and result in displaced peoples, mass migrations and increased poverty. Establishing an adaptation fund is also a critical component to bringing developing countries to the table to reach an effective international agreement on climate change. The United Nations estimates that international adaptation needs for developing countries are about \$86 billion per year by 2015.¹

The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (S.3036) takes an important first step in ensuring that vulnerable communities in impoverished countries have a semblance of a chance to adapt to the severe and unavoidable impacts of climate change.

○ **International Climate Change Adaptation and National Security Program**

To protect the economic and national security of the U.S. by minimizing, averting or increasing resilience to global climate impacts, Section 1332 establishes a program directed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, to support the development and deployment of adaptation plans and technologies in the most vulnerable countries. The director is mandated to provide a full report on the program to the President and relevant Congressional committees annually.

○ **International Climate Change Adaptation and National Security Fund**

Section 1331 directs EPA to acquire international adaptation revenue from the auction of 3.9 percent of the total permits over the life of the bill, worth an estimated \$345 billion.² The annual percentage of auctioned permits provides significantly less funding in the short-term, starting at one percent and grows very slowly from 2012 to 2017. After 2017 funding grows to two percent and increases every four years, ending at seven percent.

Recommendation:

Robust funding in the early years is needed to finance activities like developing disaster preparedness plans and developing community-driven coping strategies, establishing monitoring or early warning systems, adjusting agricultural techniques, or improving infrastructure or planning in the face of climate change. Funding for international adaptation should be increased over current amounts, particularly in the early years of the bill. **At least 1.5 percent of allocations should go to international adaptation for the years from 2012 to 2017.**

¹ 2007/2008 United Nations Human Development Report, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>

² Values based on EPA's Lieberman Warner Analysis Scenario 10, ADAGE Carbon Values