



The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733) *An Essential Step toward a Clean Energy Future*

It's time to unleash the power of clean energy to transform our economy, protect our environment, and build a sustainable future. We have the technology and know-how to make our homes and buildings so efficient that they produce more energy than they use. We can harness the sun, the wind and geothermal power to provide the energy we need without producing pollution that harms our health and our planet. The transition to clean energy will also build a vibrant green economy that creates millions of jobs without the turmoil and uncertainty caused by volatile fossil fuel prices. Passing the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act will bring America a major step closer to this clean energy future.

For years, the states have adopted progressive policies designed to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, clean up the environment, and create clean energy jobs that can't be outsourced. For instance, 28 states and the District of Columbia have already passed standards requiring their utilities to get a percentage of their electricity from clean, renewable resources.

President Obama has taken strong initial steps toward building a clean energy economy by making unprecedented investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed earlier this year, and has set bold targets for making federal buildings more efficient and powering them with clean energy. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed rules to reduce global warming pollution from big smokestack industries and passenger vehicles.

For our country to truly transition to a clean energy future, Congress must pass bold clean energy and global warming legislation. **On September 30, Senators John Kerry and Barbara Boxer introduced the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, which represents a critical step toward putting Americans back in control of our energy economy.**

The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act

The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act establishes a framework for large scale investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency and sets the first-ever federal limits on global warming pollution. The bill does this through several key policies:

- **Investing in Clean Energy**
 - The bill allocates funding to state and local governments as well as renewable energy generators to invest in new renewable energy generation, converting manufacturing facilities to the clean energy sector, renovation or building of energy efficient buildings and programs to increase energy efficiency in other arenas. These investments will create jobs, save the government and consumers money on their energy bills, and help implement American technology and know-how to repower communities, cities and the country with clean energy.
 - The bill authorizes EPA to establish a program to provide grants and other assistance to renewable energy projects in states with renewable energy goals or standards. These investments in clean energy could create jobs, save consumers money on their energy bills and help achieve the pollution-reduction targets. This program will need to be provided funding before they have any additional benefit.

- **Cutting Global Warming Pollution**
 - The bill aims to reduce global warming pollution by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and by 83% by 2050. The bill also directs the EPA to achieve additional emission

- reductions through agreements to prevent tropical deforestation, requiring reductions equivalent to another 10 percent of 2005 U.S. emissions in 2020.
 - The bill maintains the EPA's authority to require the nation's fleet of old and inefficient coal-fired power plants and other smokestack industries to meet modern pollution standards. These Clean Air Act protections are essential to moving America to clean energy.
- **Making our Economy and Energy Use More Efficient**
 - The bill includes several provisions that will make our economy and energy use more efficient. Our buildings alone use 40% of our energy, a whopping 10% of the world's energy! These programs will assist in shoring up the biggest energy leak we have.
 - It requires the EPA Administrator, or other agency head designated by the President, to set a national goal for improving building energy efficiency and develop a rule that establishes national energy efficiency building codes for residential and commercial buildings.
 - Establishes the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program to provide money to states to conduct cost-effective building retrofits.
- **Reducing Global Warming Pollution in the Transportation Sector**
 - The bill sets out an aggressive plan for reducing pollution through transportation, responsible for nearly one-third our nation's global warming pollution.
 - It requires the creation of a national transportation emissions reduction goal and directs EPA and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to work with large metropolitan areas to incorporate this goal into transportation planning efforts.
 - Authorizes funding for states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to plan and implement clean transportation projects such as transit, rail and better biking and walking, and authorizes additional funding for existing public transportation systems.
 - Amends the Clean Air Act to establish greenhouse gas emission standards for new heavy-duty and non-road vehicles.
 - Amends the Clean Air Act to allow state and local governments to set fuel efficiency standards from taxi cabs at least as stringent as federal standards.
 - Expands the SmartWay Transport Partnership, an EPA program to help American truckers upgrade to more fuel efficient and less polluting vehicles

The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act takes an important first step toward transitioning America to clean energy, but it can be improved upon in numerous ways. The final bill should ensure America starts to transition to truly clean energy sources by requiring utilities to obtain at least 25% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025, consistent with President Obama's campaign pledge. In addition, we must reduce energy waste by requiring utilities to improve their energy efficiency by at least 10% by 2020 and to allocate one-third of the pollution allowances electricity distribution companies receive under the legislation to energy efficiency improvements. These provisions will save American families more money, create more jobs, and achieve cost-effective reductions in pollution. **We urge the Senate to act swiftly to pass the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act.**

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