

## ***The American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454): Key Piece of an International Climate Agreement***

Strong domestic legislation is necessary to address the climate crisis, but not sufficient. For this reason, domestic legislation must align with and enable US efforts to negotiate a new global deal.

### ***The climate crisis is a global problem requiring a global solution:***

- We won't address worsening wildfires in California or more violent hurricanes on the Gulf Coast by simply reducing emissions in the United States; we need a plan to reduce emissions globally.
- Strong US carbon reductions and investments in international adaptation, clean technology, and avoided deforestation are the tools the President must have in order to demonstrate solid US leadership abroad and forge a strong international agreement to reduce global emissions.
- Investing now will save lives and money later. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a quarter of a billion people will face water scarcity and forced migration by 2020. By 2050 more than a billion people will face water shortages and hunger, including 600 million in Africa.
- Strong US commitments will enable developing economies like China to take more ambitious domestic actions and create new markets for US low carbon technology developers.

### ***The US needs to be a leader in the new global green economy:***

- American leadership on climate change will rebuild America's standing in the world and advance our economic, environmental and foreign policy priorities.
- American companies are eager to access new global markets and the increasing demand for renewable energy technologies and climate resilience tools (such as early warning systems). Scores of companies, including those involved in USCAP and BICEP, support US investments in global climate solutions to enhance American competitiveness and ensure US access to global supply chains.
- For every public or private dollar spent on innovative disaster risk reduction strategies, studies show three to four dollars are returned with avoided or reduced disaster impacts.

### ***International investments are in the best interests of US foreign policy and national security:***

- US national security relies on human security abroad. As climate-related impacts such as droughts, floods, storms and disease grow worse, migrations, refugee crises, and armed conflicts over scarce resources will increase. Supporting climate readiness now will help save lives and money.
- The CNA Report issued by 11 retired four-star and three-star admirals and generals, called climate change a "threat multiplier" and called for US investments in global solutions. "We will pay for this one way or another," said retired General Anthony Zinni, "We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today ... or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives."

### ***The details of domestic climate legislation will directly affect the success of international negotiations:***

In 2007, the Bush Administration agreed to the Bali Action Plan, which included commitments to strong US emissions reduction targets and support for developing countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In keeping with this agreement, US legislation needs to set a strong, science-based cap on carbon and invest in international adaptation, clean technology transfer and reducing deforestation. H.R. 2454 needs to provide the President with the tools he needs to negotiate a strong agreement to reduce global emissions and further US interests abroad.

## ***The following components in H.R. 2454 will be essential to securing a global deal:***

**Strong US Emissions Reductions:** The most important signal the United States can send in the international negotiations is a strong emissions reduction commitment. H.R. 2454 proposes a “dual target”: (a) a domestic cap on emissions; and (b) support for supplemental emissions reductions in the developing world. In keeping with the recommendations of the IPCC, the US dual target should be 25%-40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-90% below that level by 2050. The science tells us these are the targets developed countries must meet to avoid catastrophic climate change. A strong target is also needed to create the market signals that will jumpstart America’s clean energy transformation, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and spur American innovation. **The target in H.R. 2454 should be strengthened to reflect these facts, with limited use of offsets.**

**Helping the Most Vulnerable Adapt to Climate Change:** H.R. 2454 creates an International Climate Change Adaptation Program within USAID to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change. These countries, many of which are among the poorest in the world, will be forced to cope with the greatest impacts of climate change even though they possess the least capacity to do so and bear the least responsibility for the problem. The most conservative UNFCCC estimates indicate the developing world will need at least \$28 billion per year for adaptation. Based on its historical contribution to the problem, the United States’ equitable share of this responsibility is roughly 25%. Strong monitoring and reporting requirements in H.R. 2454 will ensure US adaptation financing is used efficiently and effectively while having the greatest impact. **H.R. 2454 should be strengthened to ensure the dedicated resources for adaptation come closer to meeting the existing needs.**

**Reducing Emissions Through Clean Technology Cooperation:** To stop climate change, we must help slow the growth of emissions in the developing world. This requires: (a) reducing emissions from industry in developing countries; and (b) using clean energy to help the world’s energy poor. H.R. 2454 includes a program to reduce emissions substantially by using targeted investments to catalyze new clean energy markets in developing countries and prevent them from getting “locked in” to dirty development pathways that would undermine efforts to combat climate change. By helping to spark a global clean energy revolution, these modest investments can open up new markets for US companies, reduce technology costs globally, level the economic playing field and alleviate domestic competitiveness concerns. This program is also vital to achieving a global agreement. The UNFCCC’s most conservative needs estimate for developing country mitigation is \$65 billion per year. US responsibility is roughly 25%, based on historical emissions. **H.R. 2454 should be strengthened to ensure the resources dedicated to international clean technology come closer to meeting these needs.**

**Reducing Emissions from Deforestation:** If we are to solve the climate crisis, we must find a way to reduce deforestation. Slowing deforestation offers one of the lowest-cost options for reducing emissions. If done right, it will produce emissions reductions that are real and third-party verifiable while protecting biodiversity and the rights of indigenous peoples. H.R. 2454 sets aside 5% of allowance value to reduce deforestation and create emissions reductions supplemental to a US carbon cap. This is a small fraction of is the financing needed to stop forest-based emissions, but it is a start. **This 5% set-aside should be protected, and any offsets provisions should have strong safeguards protecting the rights of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples and ensuring that countries adopt national-level rather than solely project-level approaches.**

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