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## Reduction Targets and Science Review in the American Clean Energy and Security Act

### FACT SHEET

H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES), sets up an important framework to jump start our economy, reduce our dependence on oil and help curb global warming. H.R. 2454 includes targets to reduce emissions and a science and technology review requirement. These elements are critical, because, to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must reduce emissions swiftly and deeply and rapidly adapt our policies to respond to what scientists tell us is happening to our nation and the world.

### Emissions Reductions

ACES initially regulates companies representing about 72% of the economy in 2012 and ramping up to about 86% by 2020. ACES includes global warming pollution reduction targets for regulated companies, as well as a goal to achieve these targets across the entire economy.

By Year	Reduction Targets for Specified Sources (% below 2005 levels)	Economy-wide Reduction Goals (% below 2005 levels)
2012	3	3
2020	17	20
2030	42	42
2050	83	83

In addition, because tropical forest protection and deforestation account for such a large portion of heat-trapping emissions worldwide, ACES achieves the equivalent of an additional 10 percent in reductions below 2005 levels by 2020 by targeting five percent of pollution credits to tropical forest protection.

### Climate Science, Technology Review and Recommendations

Every four years (starting July 1, 2013), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consult with appropriate federal agencies and submit to Congress a report on the latest developments in climate impacts, U.S. capabilities for monitoring and verifying emissions, and worldwide efforts to reduce emissions.

Every four years (starting July 1, 2014), the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) must submit to Congress and the EPA a review of the EPA findings and an analysis of developments in emissions-reduction technologies. If the EPA administrator has not issued a report by the stated deadline, the National Academy must also conduct its own review and analysis of the climate science.



## Union of Concerned Scientists

The NAS must include recommendations regarding actions that could be taken to improve climate research, decrease risks imposed by climate impacts, improve emissions monitoring and verification, and reduce barriers to the deployment of technologies that could reduce emissions, as well as identify any adjustments to the emissions-reduction targets that may be needed to avoid significant irreversible impacts.

### **Presidential Response**

Every four years (starting July 1, 2015), the President shall direct federal agencies to address the recommendations in the EPA and NAS reports. If the reports indicate that current practices and emissions reductions will not likely avoid significant irreversible impacts, the President shall submit to Congress a plan identifying domestic and international actions, including legislative action, to remedy the problem.

### **Bottom Line**

**UCS recommends that the policy response to the science review include an expedited process by which Congress must act on any presidential proposals, or to allow the President to implement recommendations without congressional action. UCS urges Congress to preserve the emissions reduction targets as a first step to addressing global warming, defend the science review provisions, strengthen the policy response to the science review and pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454.**