

Pew Environment Group on the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

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WASHINGTON - (June 26, 2009) Today, Phyllis Cuttino, director of the Pew Environment Group's U.S. Global Warming Campaign, released the following statement on the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This is the landmark energy and environmental legislative achievement of a generation. The bill's clean energy, efficiency and other emissions reduction provisions will make the United States safer, cleaner and more prosperous.

"Many claimed that passing a comprehensive energy and global warming bill was too bold of a step to take. But, with leadership from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Chairmen Henry Waxman and Edward Markey along with the support of 219 members of the U.S. House, a new course for America's energy future has been charted. This vote demonstrates that America can't continue to rely heavily on foreign oil and fossil fuels. We must move away from policies that pollute our environment, ignore the opportunities of a clean energy economy and imperil our children's future.

"Enactment of this legislation will advance the long-term economic, energy and environmental security interests of all Americans. This bill will create jobs and opportunities in fields such as manufacturing, construction and agriculture while decreasing our dependence on oil from unstable regions and rogue regimes around the world. This legislation will also help spur the success of international negotiations on a worldwide solution to global warming.

"Our new polling clearly demonstrates that Americans of all political stripes and from all regions of the country unmistakably support action on global warming. They believe that addressing global warming will mean more jobs, less pollution and a healthier economy that is more reliant upon sustainable forms of energy.

"A supermajority, 78%, want the U.S. to reduce its emissions of carbon dioxide that cause global warming. By a ratio of 4-to-1, voters support the core principles of the energy plan being considered by the U.S. Congress; 72% favor the two-part plan to reduce emissions and require use of clean energy sources. Overall, two thirds, 65%, believe efforts to reduce global warming will either help create new jobs or have no effect on jobs.*

"It is now up to President Barack Obama and the members of the Senate to focus their leadership on strengthening this bill and getting it signed into law without delay."

* See the full bipartisan public opinion research memo conducted by The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies from June 3 to 7 at:
<http://www.pewglobalwarming.org/>

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improving public policy, informing the public and stimulating civic life.
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