

"NACAA very much appreciates the leadership of Senators Kerry and Lieberman in developing a comprehensive legislative strategy to reduce greenhouse gases. The introduction of this bill moves Congress a step closer to passing legislation that will help ameliorate the horrific global problem posed by climate change. It is particularly important that the sponsors have set substantial greenhouse gas reduction targets of 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050.

We are very disappointed, however, with several sections of the bill that could make it more difficult to meet these reduction targets. For example, the proposal preempts all state and regional cap-and-trade programs forever. We believe this provision is unnecessary, inappropriate and unjustified. The states have successfully demonstrated that when the federal government is unable or unwilling to resolve a problem, there are other levels of government that can step in fill the void.

As this bill moves forward, we will work with the sponsors and others to seek strengthening changes to these and other provisions affecting the ability of states and localities to reduce greenhouse gases and related air pollutants."