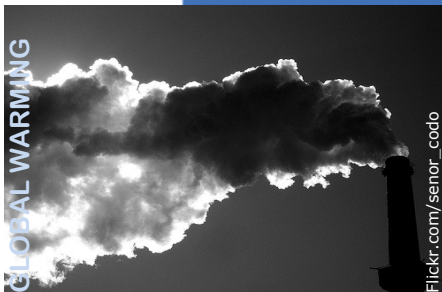




INSPIRING AMERICANS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

# Fact Sheet

CONFRONTING GLOBAL WARMING



## Vote "NO" on the Dirty Air Act

*National Wildlife Federation strongly urges Congress to reject Senator Murkowski's Dirty Air Act and instead set America on a path toward less pollution, more jobs, and greater energy security.*

At the same time images of oil burning in the Gulf Coast blanket our airwaves and America faces what may soon be its greatest environmental disaster in history, polluters are spending billions of lobbying dollars attacking the Clean Air Act, one of this country's most valuable tools to hold corporate polluters accountable. Big Oil is leading the charge, urging their allies in Congress to ignore the warnings of leading national security experts who warn that our dependence on fossil fuels are a strategic national security threat.<sup>1</sup> The lobbying arm of Big Oil (the American Petroleum Institute) is arguing that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) scientific finding of the health risks of carbon pollution "fails to demonstrate a significant risk of harm to public health or welfare"<sup>2</sup> and, in the process, threatens recently finalized fuel economy rules.

Any day now, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is expected to bring up for a vote a resolution (S.J. Res. 26) that would substitute politics for science and open a smokestack-sized loophole in one of the nation's most successful environmental laws - a law that has been strengthened repeatedly by Congress in a bipartisan manner.

National Wildlife Federation, on behalf of our four million members nationwide, stands with a broad coalition of national security, public health, environmental, business, labor, faith, and sportsmen organizations in strong opposition to any rollbacks of the Clean Air Act. Passage of the "Dirty Air Act" will take us backwards by letting polluters off the hook and preventing the growth of millions of clean energy jobs at this critical moment in time. Now is the time to move forward strategically and effectively in confronting climate change and building a strong clean energy economy.

### Don't Bailout Big Oil and Polluter Lobbyists

America's dependence on oil hurts our economy, finances our enemies, and threatens our security. The U.S. spends \$1B a day on foreign oil - money that could be invested here at home to create badly needed jobs and get our economy back on track.<sup>3</sup> Much of this money instead ends up in the hands of unfriendly governments. The Dirty Air Act would sideline a key weapon in the fight against our addiction to oil that is supplied from hostile nations. In addition, the current oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico reminds us of the dangers of our dependence on fossil fuels and the urgent need for safer and cleaner energy alternatives

The Murkowski Dirty Air Act is simply a Big Oil bailout that will unravel a historic national program to increase the fuel economy of new cars and trucks sold in the United States, threatening to increase U.S. oil dependency on oil by 450 million barrels over the life of the program.<sup>4</sup> This is equivalent to the amount of oil BP claims is gushing from the Gulf Oil Spill -- multiplied by 250 years.

**Contact:**  
**Joe Mendelson**  
Director of Global  
Warming Policy  
202-797-6898 (p)  
202-797-6646 (f)  
MendelsonJ@nwf.org

<sup>1</sup> Many experts have connected the dots between energy security, global warming and security threats. Including, but not limited to, the Department of Defense, 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (<http://www.defense.gov/qdr/>); National Intelligence Council ([http://media.npr.org/documents/2008/jun/warming\\_intelligence.pdf](http://media.npr.org/documents/2008/jun/warming_intelligence.pdf)), and Center for Naval Analysis (<http://www.cna.org/>)

<sup>2</sup> API, "Statement on EPA Expected Endangerment Finding," December 7, 2009 (<http://www.api.org/Newsroom/api-on-epa-finding.cfm>)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Energy Market and Economic Impacts of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009," August 2009

<sup>4</sup> Testimony of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson before House Energy & Commerce Committee, April 28, 2010



## Denying the Science of Global Warming

Recent findings have highlighted the growing climate crisis. NASA has found that over the last decade we suffered the highest ever recorded global temperatures. And while 2009 may have seemed cooler, NASA has confirmed that it was the second warmest year since recordkeeping began.<sup>5</sup>

In 2007, the United States Supreme Court directed the EPA to review the best available, peer reviewed science to determine whether the release of carbon dioxide and other pollutants cause or contribute to climate change and whether the resulting global warming endangers public health and welfare. Before leaving office, President George W. Bush took an initial step in the direction of implementing this ruling. Under President Obama, EPA finished this process by declaring that the science is clear and global warming pollution does, in fact, endanger public health and welfare.

Senator Murkowski's resolution would overturn this basic and established scientific determination that certain pollutants cause global warming and will have serious negative impacts on our health and environment. It is by denying the science of this "endangerment finding" that the "Dirty Air Act" will overturn the new fuel economy rules and prevent the EPA from moving forward with long overdue actions to reduce harmful global warming pollution and start us down the road to energy security.

## The Clean Air Act Success Story

Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has a proven track record of protecting public health and the environment from harmful pollution while ensuring our economy is strengthened. In 1990, the Act was revised with bipartisan support and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush – demonstrating that clean air and less pollution are goals shared by Republicans and Democrats alike.

- ✓ Since 1990, pollution that causes acid rain, asthma, developmental problems, and premature deaths has dropped 41%, while our economy's GDP has grown 64%.<sup>6</sup> History has shown us that a cleaner environment and economic growth go hand in hand, and confronting the climate crisis presents an opportunity of a lifetime to simultaneously achieve these critical goals.
- ✓ Between 1970 and 1990 actions to reduce air pollution saved the nation an estimated \$22 trillion in health care expenses and lost productivity at a cost of \$523 billion—a remarkable 40-1 benefit-cost ratio. The innovation and ingenuity of American industry has shown us, time and time again, that pollution reductions can be achieved faster and at lower cost than initially predicted.<sup>7</sup>
- ✓ Actions under the Clean Air Act have been extremely successful in cost-effectively reducing air pollution resulting from cars, trucks, and other vehicles. As a result of new rules for cleaner fuels and engines, today's cars, light trucks, and heavy-duty diesel engines are up to 95% cleaner than past models. According to EPA, when these rules are fully implemented through 2030, the benefits of achieving these emission reductions will outweigh the costs 16-to-1.

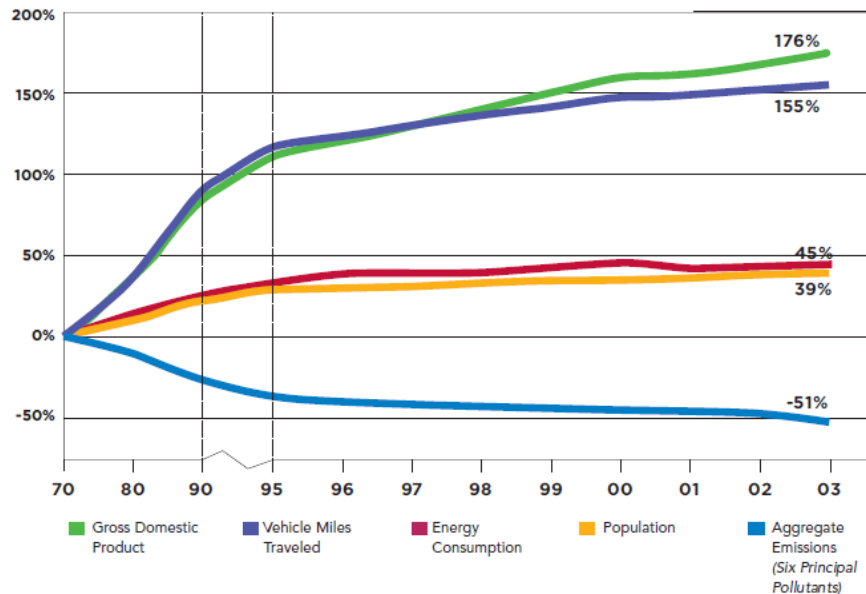
<sup>5</sup> NASA, "2009: Second Warmest on Record; End of Warmest Decade," January 21, 2010 (<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/temp-analysis-2009.html>)

<sup>6</sup> EPA, "Acid Rain Benefits Exceed Expectations," April 14, 2009 (<http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/cap-trade/docs/benefits.pdf>)

<sup>7</sup> See e.g., National Association of Clean Air Agencies, "Don't Take Away a State's Right to Protect Its Citizens from Dirty Air," April 2005 (<http://www.4cleanair.org/FinalBrochure-April05.pdf>) (discussing economic and health benefits of the Clean Air Act)



COMPARISON OF GROWTH AREAS AND EMISSIONS



### Dirty Air Act Will Harm American Competitiveness

The “Dirty Air Act” will only stall the development of a clear path forward for controlling carbon pollution at a time when industry is clamoring for regulatory certainty. A broad cross-section of American companies and labor interests have been calling for rules on limiting global warming pollution for years to ensure domestic manufacturers and other industries cannot only compete, but lead the global transition to a clean energy economy.<sup>8</sup> EPA’s efforts to reduce global warming pollution should be promoted, not prevented, so we can jumpstart the modernization and retooling of our industries while protecting public health and our environment.

- ✓ In a letter to Congress, a group of over 270 business leaders expressed opposition to the “Dirty Air Act,” noting “the growing clean energy sector represents our greatest opportunity to restore a robust economy and create new jobs. Investors and entrepreneurs in this sector are seeking to commercialize the innovations and technologies that will secure America’s competitive position in the global economy.”<sup>9</sup>
- ✓ A recent report on economic growth potential of the renewable energy and energy efficiency industry suggests that effectively tackling climate change will create up to 4.5 million new U.S. jobs by 2030 and provide the greenhouse gas emission reductions necessary to tackle climate change. Industries that will benefit from job creation span the economy from construction, manufacturing, electrical equipment, and truck transportation to farming, professional services, and even retail.<sup>10</sup>
- ✓ The Commerce Department estimates that the environmental products industry, including clean air technologies, employs 1.6 million Americans and generates approximately \$282 billion in revenues and \$40 billion in exports.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See e.g., US Climate Action Partnership ([www.us-cap.org](http://www.us-cap.org)); Business for Innovative Climate & Energy Policy ([www.ceres.org/bicep](http://www.ceres.org/bicep)); Blue Green Alliance ([www.bluegreenalliance.org](http://www.bluegreenalliance.org));

<sup>9</sup> Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), Letter to U.S. Senate Opposing the Murkowski Amendment to the Debt Limit Bill (H.J.Res. 26), 1/15/ 2010

<sup>10</sup> Bezdek, Roger H., *Estimating the Jobs Impact of Tackling Climate Change*, October 2009.

([http://www.ases.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=838&Itemid=58](http://www.ases.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=838&Itemid=58))

<sup>11</sup> Based on 2007 U.S. Department of Commerce estimates at <http://environment.ita.doc.gov/>



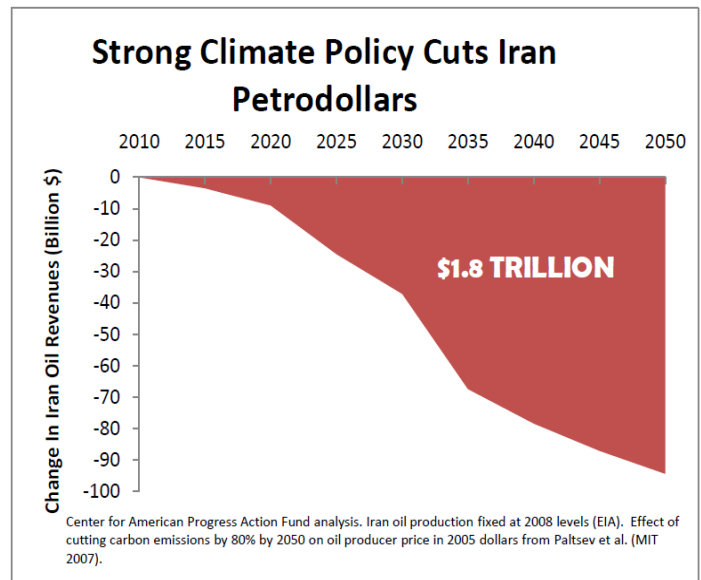
- ✓ While the U.S. market is currently the largest single market for environmental technologies, foreign markets, particularly those of developing countries like China, continue to grow at a higher rate leaving the U.S. vulnerable to losing jobs overseas. Over the past decade, America's green trade balance has deteriorated significantly, moving from a surplus of \$14.4 billion in 1997 to a deficit of nearly -\$8.9 billion in 2008.<sup>12</sup> If the U.S. is going to maintain a competitive edge, industry needs a clear signal from the government to encourage domestic production as well as domestic consumption.

### Dirty Air Act Will Harm Energy Security

Senator Murkowski claims that we must pass the “Dirty Air Act” in order to stop EPA from “rushing” to reduce harmful global warming pollution. This is hardly the case. In 1992, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The treaty directs countries such as the U.S. to take actions to reduce their emissions of global warming pollutants. Since endorsing the treaty almost eighteen years ago, the Senate has failed to take further action and allowed big polluters to increase their global warming pollution unabated. As a result, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have increased by over 16% from 1992 to 2007.

Now is the time to move forward as a country in confronting climate change and building a clean energy economy. Every day we fail to enact comprehensive clean energy and climate policy, the cost of inaction grows.

The United States is by far the world’s biggest consumer of oil, accounting for only 25 percent of world production. A comprehensive policy that reduces global warming pollution by 80% by 2050 would cut \$1.8 trillion worth of oil revenues to Iran over the next forty years.<sup>13</sup>



Senator Murkowski’s “Dirty Air Act” would to takeaway a critical tool that can be used to stop the unlimited emissions of global warming pollution from the nation’s biggest polluters, and would stall growth of clean energy jobs by creating uncertainty about the America’s commitment to a cleaner energy future. This is precisely the wrong approach to take in solving today’s most pressing environmental and economic problems.

Now is the time to move forward as a country in confronting climate change, building a clean energy economy, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The Senate should focus its attention on getting comprehensive climate and energy legislation to the President’s desk this year. Only through completion of such legislation can Congress deliver more jobs, energy independence, and faster pollution reductions. Vote NO on the Murkowski Resolution!

<sup>12</sup> Sherraden, Samuel, *Green Trade Balance*, June 22, 2009. ([http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/green\\_trade\\_balance](http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/green_trade_balance))

<sup>13</sup> Center for American Progress Action Fund, 4/10/2010 (<http://wonkroom.thinkprogress.org/2010/04/09/cap-iran-petrodollars/>)