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Center for Clean Air Policy Says Waxman and Markey Are 'Off to a Strong Start' with Release of Draft Climate and Energy Legislation

Washington, D.C. — Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) President Ned Helme released the following statement today in response to draft climate change legislation introduced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Ed Markey (D-Mass.):

“CCAP praises Chairmen Waxman and Markey for introducing comprehensive energy and climate legislation. The release of this draft bill marks an important step forward for U.S. climate change and energy policy and serves as a solid foundation for the upcoming climate debate.

“The bill has strong targets, reducing emissions from capped sectors 83 percent below 2005 by 2050 and 20 percent by 2020. The 2020 reduction could be as high as 36 percent with the bill’s provisions for reducing deforestation and crediting offsets. With these targets the bill is empowering the U.S. to engage the rest of the world, shape the post-2012 international climate change agreement this year in Copenhagen and make tangible progress toward long-term global climate protection goals.

“Successfully engaging developing countries in the international negotiations is within our reach. Encouraging developing countries to take stronger unilateral actions to reduce their emissions greatly depends on strong U.S. reduction targets and the assistance we are willing to provide them. The bill’s targets and provisions for reducing emissions from deforestation send positive signals, but we still need to see more details on what the bill outlines for technology assistance.

“The bill breaks important ground by recognizing the need for the U.S. to support reductions in deforestation in developing countries that will help those countries contribute to reducing global remissions rather than simply creating offsets that reduce U.S. companies’ costs.

“The U.S. must act promptly to pass national legislation to reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Chairmen Waxman and Markey are off to a strong start and CCAP looks forward to a thorough review of their draft bill and working with the committee to strengthen it.”

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Since 1985, CCAP has been a recognized world leader in climate and air quality policy and is the only independent, non-profit think-tank working exclusively on those issues at the local, national and international levels. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., CCAP helps policymakers around the world to develop, promote and implement innovative, market-based solutions to major climate, air quality and energy problems that balance both environmental and economic interests. For more information about CCAP, please visit www.ccap.org.