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Ceres Hails “Landmark” Waxman/Markey Bill

Integrating Energy and Climate Policy for First Time

BOSTON – Ceres President Mindy Lubber today issued the following statement supporting the “discussion draft” for climate and energy legislation released today:

Ms. Lubber’s statement follows:

This is a landmark bill that is a great first step in tackling America's energy and climate challenges in a comprehensive fashion - a strategy that Ceres has advocated from the beginning. Chairman Waxman has laid out a path that brings together energy efficiency, renewable energy and cutting greenhouse gas pollution for the first time.

It’s also a climate strategy that’s good for business and consumers. By emphasizing energy efficiency and renewable energy this bill provides the least expensive way forward for addressing climate change. It removes market barriers that exist in many states and makes it easier and cheaper for businesses to move toward a clean energy economy.

Businesses need certainty -- clear market signals that help them to plan competitive strategies while addressing the need to move forward. This bill creates certainty by ensuring that there will be business- and consumer-friendly clean energy policies in all 50 states, making it easier and less costly to lower greenhouse gas emissions as we move to the clean energy future we all want.

Our nation’s transition to a clean energy economy needs to start with energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and Chairman Waxman’s bill recognizes this. Efficiency - eliminating energy waste -- is the cheapest, fastest and cleanest way to meet energy needs. And it has the double benefit of cutting energy costs - for consumers and businesses -- as it cuts pollution. Economists who have studied how to address global warming largely agree that reducing emissions is much less costly than failing to reduce emissions, and then being forced to adapt to the resulting climate change.

We look forward to reviewing the legislation closely and working with Chairman Waxman as it moves forward in the weeks ahead.

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