

What Can Members Do?

Members can visit ourenergy.coop and ask Congress some basic questions:

- ▼ How is Congress going to help us meet the future demand for electricity?
- ▼ How are they going to help us develop technology to reduce carbon emissions?
- ▼ How is Congress going to help keep electricity affordable?

Members can contact elected officials directly about keeping electric rates affordable:

Senator Feingold

Phone: 202-224-5323

Senator Kohl

Phone: 202-224-5653

Congressman Ron Kind

Phone: 202-225-5506

Congressman David Obey

Phone: 202-225-3365




Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

The Time to Speak Out is Now!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Country Comfort, LLC Partner

Barron: 715•537•3171 Toll-free 800•322•1008
For Outages Only: 866-258-8722

Weekday Hours

7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.barronelectric.com

House Passage of HR 2454

The House of Representatives passed HR 2454, the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" (ACES) with a narrow margin of 219 - 212. This is the Waxman-Markley comprehensive energy bill that includes a cap-and-trade global warming reduction plan designed to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent by 2020. Other provisions include new renewable requirements for utilities, studies and incentives regarding new carbon capture and sequestration technologies, energy efficiency incentives for homes and buildings, and grants for green jobs. The Waxman bill as drafted will take effect in 2012.

Work Continues on Bill

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) continues to have significant concerns about the bill. They plan to work with the members of the U.S. Senate to make significant improvements to this bill to make it even more workable, affordable and fair. Specifically, NRECA will work to:

- Make sure the emission caps, particularly in the first decade of the

program, are consistent with the availability of technology - the caps in the current bill remain too stringent;

- Ensure that emission allowances for the utility sector are distributed based on emissions to minimize the additional costs to the consumers who will be most affected by the reductions required by the bill;
- Improve the cost-containment provisions of the legislation to avoid price shocks; and
- Make other improvements to the bill that will make it more workable, affordable, and flexible.

NRECA is committed to working with Congress to develop climate change and energy legislation that achieves the nation's energy and environmental objectives in the most affordable manner possible.

The Effect of Climate Change Legislation on Members

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the price increases resulting from a 15 percent cut in CO₂ emissions could cost the average household roughly \$700 annually or nearly \$60 monthly.



Cap & Trade is used to describe a regulation or legislative maximum cap for emissions into the atmosphere. Allowances to the Cap limits may be given or sold to the emitters by the government or sold at auction like stocks are to the highest bidder and the owner of these allowances is able to resell or trade them. For emitters who have allowances to trade they can sell them to other emitters who are exceeding the Cap limits. Utilities would be taxed for the amount of carbon dioxide produced when burning fossil fuels to generate electricity.