



Global Warming Campaign Clean Energy Jobs & American Power Act

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives took steps to address global warming and boost the clean energy economy by passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). With the recent introduction of the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, sponsored by Senators John Kerry and Barbara Boxer, the Senate is now poised to move forward with a comprehensive clean energy plan as well.

Similar to the ACES Act, the central component of the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act is a program that will reduce global warming pollution by 83% from 2005 levels by 2050. In addition, the bill includes a variety of measures that will help re-power America with clean energy, create new jobs, protect our air and water from dangerous pollution, and will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Of critical importance to Audubon, the bill also includes important provisions that will provide funding and develop comprehensive plans to protect our natural resources and help birds and wildlife adapt to a changing climate.

By addressing the issue of climate change and energy independence, we can revitalize our faltering economy, create millions of new jobs, and build the clean energy economy of the future. The Clean Energy Jobs Act is a step toward achieving this vision.

Highlights of the Clean Energy Jobs Act

REDUCES GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

Similar to the ACES Act, the Clean Energy Jobs Act requires dirty power plants, oil companies, and other polluters to reduce dangerous global warming pollution.

- Going beyond the ACES proposal, the Clean Energy Jobs Act will reduce emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, while maintaining the same goal of reducing emissions 83 percent by 2050.
- Provides incentives to developing countries to avoid deforestation, with a goal of an additional 10 percent reduction in emissions by 2020

- The bill establishes additional standards for reducing emissions from new coal fired power plants. In an improvement over the ACES bill, the Senate legislation also retains the authority established under the Clean Air Act for the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce emissions from existing sources.

SAFEGUARDS NATURAL RESOURCES FROM GLOBAL WARMING

The Clean Energy Jobs Act includes several critical provisions that recognize the need to protect birds, wildlife, and our natural resources from the impacts of global warming.

- Establishes a Natural Resource Climate Change Adaptation Panel to develop and coordinate strategies and plans to protect and manage our natural resources.
- Provides funding to a variety of programs at the state and federal level to help wildlife adapt to threats posed by global warming.

PROMOTES CLEAN ENERGY AND BOOSTS THE ECONOMY

In addition to strong global warming pollution reduction goals, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act provides a variety of measures and investments that promote clean and renewable energy, save consumers money through energy efficiency improvements, expand research and development in clean energy technology, reduce our dependence on oil by improving our transportation choices, and create new jobs and boost our economy.

- Provides grants to cities and states that promote clean energy by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements.
- Boosts investments in research and development for clean energy technologies.

- Reduces our dependence on oil by investing in vehicle efficiency improvements and improving transportation planning in order to reduce global warming pollution.
- Provides extensive worker training for new industries, including new programs at post-secondary institutions and transition programs for workers in slower-growth industries.

PROTECTS CONSUMERS AND THE ECONOMY

The Clean Energy Jobs Act is affordable and helps protect consumers in all income groups.

- The bill protects consumers through rebates for low and moderate income Americans.
- Creates a market stability fund to ensure that as the economy changes, consumers will experience affordable prices.
- Includes provisions to ensure that the carbon marketplace is transparent and accountable.

Still Under Consideration

While the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act has established a framework for legislation in the Senate, many provisions are still under consideration. The most significant section to be developed will be the provisions that determine the various funding levels for the programs included in the bill. The funding levels are expected to be developed by the Environment and Public Works Committee, along with the Finance Committee.

As the legislative process moves forward this fall, several other committees are expected to contribute provisions to the bill. The final product will be a comprehensive clean energy plan that will move to the Senate floor.

For more information, contact Justin Tatham at Audubon's policy office, 202-861-2242, ext. 3045, or your Audubon state office.