

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
FRANK PALLONE, Jr., NEW JERSEY
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO
VICE CHAIRMAN
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK
JIM MATHESON, UTAH
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
DORIS O. MATSUI, CALIFORNIA
DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VIRGIN ISLANDS
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
JOHN SARBANES, MARYLAND
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
ZACHARY T. SPACE, OHIO
JERRY MCNERNEY, CALIFORNIA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
BRUCE BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

MAJORITY (202) 225-2927
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2525
MINORITY (202) 225-3641

energycommerce.house.gov

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO MACK, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
SUE WILKINS MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA
STEVE SCALISE, LOUISIANA

Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 May 18, 2009

Our nation is at a crossroads: Our economy is suffering; we are squandering billions of dollars to feed our addiction on foreign oil; and our environment is overheating. We can continue to look the other way and leave these problems to our children. Or we can adopt a new energy policy for America.

Today we begin consideration of legislation that will finally address the major energy problems facing our nation. We have three goals:

We want at long last to provide energy security for the country;

We want to transform our economy by creating new clean energy jobs, developing new technologies, and creating new export markets; and

We want to address the very real threat posed by global warming.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will revitalize our economy through investment in clean energy generation and energy efficiency technologies. The legislation will create millions of new clean energy jobs, save consumers hundreds of billions of dollars in energy costs, enhance America's energy independence, and cut global warming pollution.

As President Obama said on Saturday, this legislation will "create a new system of clean energy initiatives that will help unleash a new era of growth and prosperity."

I am very proud of the work this Committee has done in developing this legislation. Energy legislation is by its nature contentious. It can inflame regional differences. But over the last several weeks, we have been able to bridge these differences and build a remarkable coalition behind the legislation.

The American Clean Energy Act is supported by business leaders, environmentalists, and trade unions. They have put aside their differences to embrace the legislation because they know it is the key to economic growth, job creation, and a cleaner environment.

My ranking member, Joe Barton, will argue that this bill will undermine our economy. He and others will claim that there is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and clean energy.

That is a false choice. Our economic prosperity and a clean energy future are inextricably linked.

We have faced these same doomsday predictions before. When we debated the Clean Air Act, opponents said it would destroy our economy. We passed the law, cleaned our air, and grew our economy. Our economy soared over 200% at the same time our pollution was cut by more than half.

When we debated the 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act, industry lobbyists said the bill would cost more than a \$100 billion per year. Even in 1990 dollars, that's more than the costs of the energy legislation we are debating today. But under the leadership of John Dingell, we were able to forge lasting compromises.

Mr. Dingell has played the same key role in shaping the American Clean Energy Act. He has stepped into the middle of some of the most contentious issues and identified solutions that brought members together. I commend and thank him for his leadership.

Many other members have played critical roles. Mr. Markey has been steadfast in his leadership, his determination, and his vision for the future. Mr. Boucher crafted a compromise on the global warming title that bridged the differences between industry and environmental groups. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Inslee showed us the path for protecting our industrial heartland. Mr. Green and Mr. Gonzales crafted revisions that address the concerns of oil refiners. Mr. Butterfield and Mr. Rush have worked to protect the interests of low-income consumers. And Ms. Sutton developed an innovative "cash for clunkers" proposal.

On issue after issue — protection of consumers, energy efficiency, investments in R&D, electric vehicles, transportation planning, international deforestation, and many others — members of this Committee proposed good ideas and pragmatic and effective solutions to difficult problems.

We have also reached out repeatedly to members on the Republican side. Where we received suggestions, we have tried to incorporate them. Over the course of this week, we will listen to Republican ideas and incorporate them where we can.

The bill we are considering today is a strong bill. It will break our dependence on foreign oil, make our nation the world leader in clean energy jobs and technology, and protect our children from dangerous carbon pollution.

I look forward to the markup and reporting this bill favorably to the House.