

ACTION ALERT
June 5, 2008

Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Substitute to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S. 3036)

FURTHER ACTION NEEDED:

Please urge your Senators to vote “yes” on cloture to allow the “Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Substitute” to come to the Senate floor for debate, discussion and amendment. It is critical that our nation’s leaders discuss climate change, especially its impact on poor persons.

To reach Senators, go to www.senate.gov.

The phone number for the Capitol switchboard is 202-224-3121.

SUMMARY:

Climate change is a serious issue which deserves to be debated on the Senate floor. Some senators are attempting to prevent this legislation from coming to the Senate floor for debate, discussion and amendment. Urging your Senator to vote “yes” on cloture is simply asking for an opportunity to debate and discuss this historic legislation. It is not asking your Senator to support or oppose this legislation or any particular amendments.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other religious partners have emphasized that a central moral measure of climate change legislation is how it touches the poor and vulnerable. The introduction, improvement and consideration of this major legislation represent an important step forward in addressing climate change and its impact on the poor. While USCCB does not endorse the many specific provisions of the bill, we welcome and support provisions that address the disproportionate effects climate change and climate change legislation will have on poor and vulnerable people in our country and around the world.

OVERVIEW:

The “Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Substitute to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act” (S. 3036) institutes a “cap and trade” program that provides market-based incentives to lower greenhouse gases and generate funds for public goods. USCCB is primarily concerned with key provisions that provide much needed assistance, at home and abroad, to poor people and poor countries for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

USCCB POSITION:

In their statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops declared:

We especially want to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests ... Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice that does not put the poor at greater risk or place disproportionate and unfair burdens on developing nations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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