



American Chemical Society

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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June 2, 2008

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer
Solutions to Global Warming
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0703

The Honorable John Warner
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer
Solutions to Global Warming
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
225 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4601

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Warner:

On behalf of the world's largest scientific society and the more than 160,000 members of the American Chemical Society, I offer our endorsement of S.3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act. S.3036 represents an important step towards addressing the threat of global climate change, and ACS is proud to lend its support to your legislation.

Careful and comprehensive scientific assessments have clearly demonstrated that the earth's climate system is changing rapidly in response to growing atmospheric burdens of greenhouse gases and absorbing aerosol particles (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007). There is very little room for doubt that observed climate trends are due to human activities. The threats are serious, and action is urgently needed to mitigate the risks of climate change.

The vast weight of scientific evidence indicates that warming trends over the next 50 years will not only have profound effects on land- and sea-based biological systems, but will likely also create a number of serious societal, economic, and national security threats. Without rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the effects of climate change may become irreversible, which makes it imperative that the United States immediately adopt nationwide goals to put us on a course to reduce GHG emissions.

S.3036 aims to reduce emissions economy wide by over 70 percent by 2050. Some may argue this is too little and others, too much. Given the severity of the problem we face, extended debate is not an option. ACS believes taking action to forestall and reverse the potentially irreversible effects of climate change is paramount, and we urge policymakers to move quickly to pass legislation a policy that can be implemented quickly.

ACS strongly supports of a number of elements of your legislation, including a national carbon registry, investments in the development of carbon sequestration technology, and dedicated revenues from the allowance auction, which would fund the innovative Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy as envisioned by P.L.109-69, the America COMPETES Act of 2007.

ACS Vision: Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry

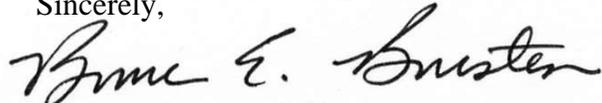
*The American Chemical Society — with more than 160,000 members — is the largest scientific society in the world.
ACS is a nonprofit membership organization chartered by the U.S. Congress and a global leader
in providing access to chemistry-related research.*

ACS believes that there are several areas where investments in research and education would enhance our long-term responses to address climate change. One such area is in the area of nuclear science. Currently the nation suffers from a drastic shortage of properly trained chemists, nuclear scientists, engineers and other technically trained personnel able to safely build, operate and maintain nuclear energy facilities. I would urge you to work to expand nuclear science education as a component of your bill.

In addition, the need for more climate science is dramatic, and the United States' once robust investment in this field has fallen over the last five years. We encourage you to reinvigorate the climate sciences field by investing revenues from cap-and-trade auctions in reinvigorating and fully funding an American climate research program. Such a program would better predict the impacts of climate change on regional, national and global scales and allow the systematic analyses needed to effectively design and evaluate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Additionally, ACS supports the many other forms of energy research and development throughout the bill.

I applaud your efforts and leadership in being proactive to find successful solutions to climate change. On behalf of the entire membership of the American Chemical Society, I look forward to working with you and your fellow Senators to pass this legislation as quickly as possible so we can begin putting systems and solutions in place to address the growing threat of global climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce E. Bursten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" at the beginning.

Bruce E. Bursten, Ph.D.
President