

Edward M. Kennedy  
Massachusetts

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

June 5, 2008

Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

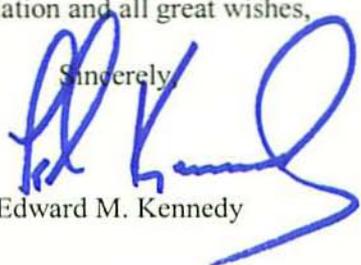
Dear Chairman Boxer:

I commend you and Senator Lieberman and Senator Warner for your leadership on the Climate Security Act. At long last, significant legislation long needed to address this growing crisis is ready for Senate action, and I wish very much that I could be there for this landmark debate.

Regrettably, I'm unable to participate, but I hope my colleagues will support the Act by voting for cloture, as I would if I were able to do so.

With respect and appreciation and all great wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Edward M. Kennedy

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.  
DELAWARE



**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 5, 2008

Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

As we discussed, I regret that a long standing speaking commitment will cause me to be absent for the scheduled cloture vote on your substitute amendment to S. 3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act.

I write to make it clear for the record that, had I been present, I would have cast my vote in support of cloture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
United States Senator

## Statement of Senator Clinton

M. President, the scientific consensus is clear: strong and swift action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is needed to prevent catastrophic effects of climate change. That's why the debate this week in the Senate about the cap-and-trade bill crafted by Senators Boxer, Lieberman and Warner is so important. This bill makes steep reductions in emissions, encourages the development and deployment of clean energy technology, provides assistance for American families, training for workers that the clean energy industry will demand. I congratulate Chairman Boxer for moving this bill to the floor. It's a first step toward Congress enacting a cap-and-trade bill as part of a broad, comprehensive effort to combat global warming and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, including aggressive steps to improve energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy that will benefit our economy and help create millions of new jobs. I believe that we can and should make this bill even stronger, and I hope that we can do that as we continue to consider the bill. For now, we need to move forward on this important legislation. That's why I would vote for cloture on this legislation if I were able to be present in the Senate for the vote. The time is now to move forward and deal with global warming, and I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture.

**Statement of Senator Obama (Page S5179 of the June 5 Congressional Record)**

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I have a unanimous consent request that I may have printed in the Record a statement of Senator Barack Obama which says if he were able to be present, he would vote to invoke cloture.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Madam President, I will not be present for tomorrow's cloture vote on the substitute amendment to the climate change bill (S. 3036). However, were I able to be present, I would vote to invoke cloture. Thank you.

## Statement of Senator McCain

“Global climate change is the most important environmental challenge facing not only our nation, but the entire world. I am confident that given the will, the federal government can be a lead advocate for ensuring that America is doing its part to reduce global warming, and join in the global effort that is needed to address this world-wide environmental issue.

Like many of my colleagues, I believe this legislation needs to be debated, amended, improved, and ultimately, enacted. While my schedule precludes me from being in Washington, DC, tomorrow to cast my vote, if I were able, I would vote to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment. That does not mean I believe the pending bill is perfect, and in fact, it is far from it. For example, the provisions to impose Davis Bacon mandates should be removed. Most importantly, it must include provisions championed by Senator Graham and myself that would ensure that nuclear power, a proven and clean energy source, is included among the technologies supported in our efforts to address global warming. Nuclear energy is an emission free source of electricity for the nation, which is why it simply must be part of the comprehensive solution to addressing climate change, and if it is not, I could not support the legislation's final passage.

Unfortunately, despite the commitment and tireless efforts of the bill sponsors, Senators Lieberman and Warner, it appears that for now, the Senate, at the direction of the Majority Leader, will choose to put politics above policy, and Congress will fail to act yet again on this critical issue. But rest assured, we will not give up until we finally succeed in enacting needed, comprehensive cap and trade legislation to address this urgent problem.”

## Statement of Senator Coleman

Mr. President, we are in the middle of an energy crisis, and the only way we're going to get out of it is to dramatically transform how this country does energy.

That's what the Lieberman-Warner Climate bill does – it takes on one of the greatest economic and national security threats America faces today: our energy insecurity.

Mr. President, sometimes we must look around the mountain, we must look to our future and recognize where our path must lead. We must recognize that we need massive and speedy development of domestically produced clean energy sources.

If we had committed to this bill 10 years ago – we wouldn't be in the tight spot we find ourselves in right now. We needed carbon capture technology for coal, increased nuclear power, cellulosic ethanol, and widespread renewable energy use yesterday.

This year, nearly half a trillion of our dollars will be sent overseas for energy we are capable of producing at home. The fact is, we are being held hostage by a world oil market where much the supply is controlled by thugs and tyrants like Ahmadinejad and Chavez. But, as we have found in Minnesota, we can grow our own fuel, and the potential of cellulosic ethanol to replace foreign oil makes today's renewable fuels production look small, but it still hasn't reached commercialization.

Meanwhile, nuclear energy is an affordable, zero-emissions source of energy, yet we have not built a nuclear plant in this country in 30 years.

And, due to environmental concerns, it is increasingly difficult to utilize one of our greatest sources of energy in the country: coal. We have a 250 year supply of coal that we must find a way to use for energy production because one thing is certain – America's energy needs are only increasing.

At the same time, we have abundant energy around us that has yet to be tapped. Mr. President, when I'm fishing on a beautiful morning up in Lake Ada back home, the sunshine and steady breeze are a constant reminder of the renewable resources that we can harness to power our homes and businesses.

The solutions to our energy woes are at our fingertips; it's time we grabbed hold of the great opportunity at hand and lead an energy revolution that will be the source for future security and increased opportunity for generations to come.

But, we can't wait for this revolution to come to us. I am skeptical that we are just going to wake up one day and see cellulosic ethanol at the pump or see a nuclear energy renaissance or clean coal with carbon sequestration or widespread use of renewables, unless we take bold action.

Mr. President, that's what this bill is about.

The Climate Security Act empowers Americans to do what we must do, which is to transform our production of energy. It sets up a cap-and-trade system, just as was done in the 1990 Clean Air Act to combat acid rain, that gives greenhouse gas producers flexibility in meeting their obligations through submission of allowances. Listening to some of the debate over this last week, one might think this bill is a windfall for the federal government, but what this bill really does is allocate these allowances to help the folks regulated in their transition

to clean energy and to help energy consumers, both families and businesses with their energy costs. Just look at what happens in 2012, when the cap begins:

- Over 38% of allowances are given out for free to fossil-fired power plants, energy consumers, natural gas and petroleum facilities, carbon intensive manufacturing facilities, agriculture and forestry, and states that are manufacturing and coal reliant;
- Another 36% of allowances go to states and emitters to incentivize clean energy deployment and carbon sequestration; and
- The 25% of the allowances that the government does “auction” go to programs that invest in our energy future by doing things like dramatically boosting clean coal technology, clean energy research and development, and worker training assistance.

In particular, the bill provides record investment in clean coal, renewables, and cellulosic ethanol, including:

- \$17 billion of support for carbon capture and storage technology for coal to kick start this technology, \$120 billion in incentives for carbon capture and storage, and my CO2 pipeline study proposal;
- bonus allowances for renewable energy that I have strongly supported;
- \$150 billion for renewable energy;
- \$92 billion for low-carbon electricity technology; and
- \$26 billion for production of cellulosic ethanol

But there is no doubt in revolutionizing our energy production, a transition will be required that won't come easy. That's why, from the time I cosponsored the first Lieberman-Warner proposal, I made clear that as we work on this legislation, we have to keep in mind the single mother in St. Paul working two jobs who can't afford higher energy prices and we must protect the economy and American jobs.

I compliment Senators Lieberman and Warner for taking these concerns to heart. This substitute makes several critical changes from earlier drafts to assist poor and middle class families with energy prices and to protect jobs.

First, this substitute dramatically increases the resources dedicated to help consumers, both families and businesses, with energy costs – bringing the total assistance to \$1.7 trillion. \$800 million of this amount is targeted at a tax cut for low income Americans' energy costs. Meanwhile, this substitute increases by 40 percent the funding that will go to energy consumers through their utility bill, bringing this provision's assistance total to \$900 billion.

Secondly, this bill includes a new allowance trigger at between \$22 and \$30 per allowance that provides an important off-ramp should costs become high. This trigger is critical because economic consequences escalate when the price of an allowance increases.

Many of the high energy cost and GDP estimates cited on the floor this week have been taken from an EPA study that assumes an allowance price of at least \$46 per allowance. Under this substitute, prices won't be allowed to get anywhere near that level.

Finally, this bill places an allowance purchase requirement on importers of products like steel, chemicals, and other energy intensive products if a commission does not find that the country of origin is taking comparable action to curb greenhouse gases.

There is a lot of concern that this bill will increase energy prices and hurt the economy, and Mr. President, you will hear many of my colleagues cite studies with drastic cost increase numbers. While this substitute amendment,

with the protections I just outlined, has yet to be analyzed, I believe much of the economic pain projected in some studies is overstated – even without the off-ramp.

For instance, the independent Energy Information Agency found in their High Cost scenario that there is a predicted electricity price increase of 1.5% a year and a gas price increase of 2 cents per year. Meanwhile, EIA has projected less than half of one percent effect on GDP – again, this is before the off-ramp.

I do want to commend Senators Lieberman and Warner for their work on this bill – they deserve much credit for taking this on, for pouring themselves into this very difficult, complex task – taking on one of the great challenges of our day.

That's why I'm so disappointed that we won't have a chance to consider this bill on the floor. Mr. President, the Clean Air Act took five weeks, we've been given less than 5 days on a much more comprehensive piece of legislation. The process set up here robs us of an opportunity to take our energy crisis head on.

I have supported the Lieberman-Warner effort as a cosponsor, and I continue to support this bill, but I have always made clear that I would work to improve the bill to protect Minnesota jobs. So, I have a few amendments, some that I am introducing, some I am cosponsoring that substantively improve this bill – many of these changes are very small, but the consequences of not including them will be very large in my state.

Mr. President, because of this process, I won't have the chance to offer my amendment to create a Fuel Assistance Fund that will lower federal fuel taxes by an amount equal to fuel price increases those driving cars and trucks and riding on airplanes have to pay as a result from this bill. This is an amendment to protect American consumers, it's common-sense, and it keeps the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport and Airways Trust Fund whole.

I won't have a chance to amend the bill to ensure that my state's many waste-to-energy facilities are considered renewable. This is a small change, but without it, we could disadvantage an important clean energy technology.

Mr. President, this bill needs a nuclear energy title. We need to boost tax incentives for nuclear power plants and improve the existing loan guarantee program. We need to train a workforce for the nuclear renaissance that we'll need to meet our energy needs.

Meanwhile, we need to restore the transition assistance for rural electric cooperatives that was included in earlier drafts of the bill, and we need to exempt steel process emissions as there is no feasible technological alternative to using carbon to produce iron ore. If these process emissions aren't excluded, we're going to send steel jobs overseas.

These amendments are designed to work within the structure of this bill, to augment it, to remove negative impacts that could hit Minnesotans – they deserve to be considered.

Mr. President, the challenge we face in solving our energy security problems is great, but for the folks who don't think America can meet this challenge, I'd like to remind them of the fight we had over the first Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) just a few years ago. I worked with a bipartisan cast of colleagues to pass the first RFS in 2005, and at the time, it was criticized as onerous and too ambitious.

We thought we were aiming high by passing a 7.5 billion gallon renewable fuels requirement by 2012. Mr. President, today, in 2008, we have the renewable fuel production capacity of 8.5 billion gallons – we have far out surpassed expectations of production at the time.

Driving around Minnesota's countryside, I have witnessed the source of this overwhelming success – local entrepreneurs, innovators, and visionaries. And, the Minnesotans who have built our renewable fuels industry, which contributes over \$5 billion to the state's economy, have transformed their local economies. The government sent the market a strong signal, and the American people responded.

Mr. President, the time for an energy revolution is long overdue. We cannot afford delay, and it is my hope that we will be provided the time we need to consider and pass this critical bill in the near future.