

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

“Roadmap from Poznan to Copenhagen – Preconditions for Success”

February 4, 2009

10:00 am

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Witness Questions for the record

Questions for all witnesses:

- 1) Can we see meaningful reductions in global emissions without broad participation from developing countries?
- 2) If Congress crafts legislation to place mandatory restrictions on carbon emissions, how do you envision such a bill interacting with an international protocol? Should Congress pass a bill without provisions that require international participation, how can Congress craft legislative language that will not be ruled illegal by the WTO or instigate global carbon trade wars?
- 3) As a carbon-free source of energy, do you believe nuclear power needs to be a part of the global energy solution?
- 4) As you know, deforestation heavily contributes to global greenhouse gas emissions. How can an international framework properly address emissions due to deforestation, particularly when measuring emissions from deforestation is so difficult?
- 5) If there is not a final protocol agreed to at Copenhagen, then what?
- 6) Even if developing nations agree to emissions caps, varying policies and carbon prices will inevitably lead to leakage. How can the United States ensure the long-term vitality of our economy when facing leakage?
- 7) Sunday's edition of the India newspaper, *The Economic Times* quoted IPCC Chairman R.K. Pachauri as saying "negotiations are going on for the conference of parties at the Copenhagen where we will have a multilateral worldwide agreement . . . Of course, the developing countries will be exempted from any such restrictions but the developed countries will certainly have to cut down on emissions." And last Thursday's issue of the *Financial Times* quoted top U.N. climate change bureaucrat Yvo de Boer as saying: "I don't think developing countries will accept binding targets." What are your reactions to these statements and what they portend for this year's negotiations?

Questions for Mr. Bradley

- 1.) In your testimony, you note that “many of these countries have a very mixed record of implementing the goals in their national plans.” Do you predict similar future failures to meet mandatory targets? How do you suggest that the international community holds all nations accountable to reach their mandatory levels of emissions? How should countries that don’t meet their levels be penalized? Will countries that don’t reach their Kyoto targets face more stringent levels under a new protocol?
- 2.) As you point out, some poor countries still lack basic access to electricity. Ultimately, cheap energy is still the cornerstone for economic growth. How should a new international framework provide cheap electricity for countries most at need?
- 3.) What are the most significant barriers to technology transfer to help developing countries become more energy efficient?
- 4.) With a limited pool of funding, which are the funding priorities for adaptation measures versus mitigation measures?
- 5.) Considering the challenges the U.S. would face domestically with meeting emissions limits, do you think it would be a wise decision to dedicate a funding stream to international projects from revenue generated by auctioning permits? Given the uncertain amount of revenue from such an auction, what level of international funding would you advocate? A certain percentage? A specific dollar amount?
- 6.) How can the United States further protect intellectual property? What sort of incentives should exist for private sector development of new technology?

Questions for Mr. Diringer

- 1.) How do you account for different long-term goals based on growth rates? Is there a threshold at which point some non-annex I countries will need to have the same emissions targets as annex I countries? How do you account for long-term economic changes over 41 years (till 2050)?
- 2.) In your testimony, you note the difficulty in determining proper emissions targets for developing countries. What is your ideal formula for such determinations? How can the UNFCCC properly determine targets with as little “political” consideration as possible?
- 3.) You say, “The bargaining process itself is likely to produce a de facto differentiation, however, with stronger commitments by the most advanced emerging economies, and perhaps none at all by many others.” How many different sets of commitments should there be? If there are countries that don’t have any restrictions, won’t leakage drive emissions to those countries and continue to increase global greenhouse gas emissions?
- 4.) How have regional agreements, such as the U.S. – Asia Pacific Partnership contributed to emissions reductions? Do you see the potential for similar partnerships to arise and further facilitate emissions reductions?

Questions for Ms. Harbert

- 1.) Can you briefly outline the differences in the world economy from 1992 to now? Can you predict how the world economy will change between now and 2050?
- 2.) How would the United States unilateral enactment of mandatory limits on carbon emissions and adoption of a cap-and-tax program affect the business community?
- 3.) How can the United State further protect intellectual property? What sort of incentives should exist for private sector development of new technology?
- 4.) What policies can Congress adopt to facilitate development of new, clean energy technology?