

U.S. House of Representatives
Select Committee on
Energy Independence and Global Warming

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Ranking Republican

News Advisory

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Cities Can Help Show the Way on Global Warming Policy

Sensenbrenner: Congress Looking for What Works

Seattle, Nov. 2, 2007 – U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., ranking Republican on the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, made the following statement during today’s hearing titled, “Bright Lights in the City: Pathways to Energy Independence:”

“This is the second time this select committee has invited mayors from across the nation to testify about their efforts to reduce the emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

“In June, I told the mayors that testified before the select committee that their experience shows how difficult it is to meet the climate change goals of the Kyoto treaty. From the moment that treaty was drafted, it was clear that it would have heavy impacts on the economy.

“I originally opposed Kyoto because it was apparent that it would take economic sacrifices that weren’t justified, then or now. I was particularly bothered by the fact that major emerging economies like China and India were exempt. The result would have surely been a flight of manufacturing to these exempt countries that is far greater than we are seeing today. And that’s saying something.

“It’s been almost a decade since the treaty was adopted and the results from Europe aren’t good. It appears several European nations are far from meeting their Kyoto goals.

“This week, *The Seattle Times* published an article about the difficulty many cities in Washington are having with meeting Kyoto goals.

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“I’m not surprised that cities which have pledged to meet Kyoto-like goals are also having troubles, though I honestly don’t believe it’s due to any lack of effort on their part.

“States and localities are often referred to as ‘laboratories of democracy.’ But in this case, cities can be seen as ‘laboratories of global warming policy.’

“I am pleased that nearly 700 cities have pledged to work to meet Kyoto’s goal. I hope that cities will make their best effort to fund these global warming initiatives themselves. One of the biggest problems with implementing global warming policy is the costs, and if city politicians try to mask these costs by using federal funds, then we are no closer to understanding what sacrifices voters are willing to make in order to try to address global warming. And that is very important information for members of Congress.

“Republicans on this select committee and in Congress aren’t out to oppose every global warming policy. However, I believe that Congress should be guided by some principles when considering global warming legislation.

“Any global warming policy should:

- Result in tangible, measurable improvements to the environment.
- Support technological advances.
- Protect jobs and the economy.
- Include global participation, including China and India.

“I am confident that Congress can find ways to address global warming while meeting these goals. In doing so, I’m sure Congress will look to see what works in cities and states that have made their own emission reductions.”

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