

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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Global Warming Proposals Come With Costs

Sensenbrenner: Regulations Would Drive Up Energy Prices

Washington, D.C., Nov. 14, 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, “State leadership Towards a Low-Carbon Future:”

“I want to thank the chairman for holding this important hearing today and I welcome Governors Napolitano and Spitzer.

“One of the purposes of this select committee, which does not have any legislative jurisdiction, is to help provide Congress with additional guidance on how to address the sometimes-related issues of energy independence and global warming.

“Therefore, I am very interested in what both the states and what local governments are doing to address climate change. So far, the committee has twice heard from mayors of cities big and small; most recently when the committee held a field hearing in Seattle to accompany a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting on global warming, where New York City Mayor Bloomberg called for a carbon tax.

“By watching and seeing what the states and localities do to address global warming, members of Congress can get a sense of what works and what doesn’t. To me, policies that help promote competition and technological change, without driving up the cost of energy, are policies that will work and be supported by the American people.

“After all, what voter wants to see their energy bill rise? And as the members of this panel and our witnesses must surely know, being on the opposite side of the voter definitely does not work. As I have said many times before, any global warming policy that costs jobs or hurts the economy does not work for me or for my Republican colleagues.

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“Unfortunately, I believe some of what I learn from the cities and states will be what not to do, especially when it comes to using regulations to address global warming.

“These regulations may work if everybody all over the world agreed to them and then actually complied with them. Internationally, this means that China and India must be part of the program. Otherwise, for all the feel-good back-patting that greenhouse gas regulations might create here, it’s unlikely that it would actually lead to a worldwide reversal of growth in greenhouse gas emissions.

“Sure, these regulations would lead to some drop off of emissions here in the U.S. But just look to China and India and increases will be found, probably from a manufacturer who decided against making the big investment in the U.S. in favor of a smaller price tag in Asia.

“Additionally, without the transformational energy technologies that will allow for energy production without creating CO2 emissions, I seriously question whether the voters of our states will show the patience, or have the resources, needed for these regulations to work.

“So, with that in mind, I watch with great interest the states’ efforts to regulate CO2

“In the end, the question for our committee will not only be whether New York or Arizona lowered their emissions, but whether they also lowered their standards of living in an effort to do so. Obviously, the governors will do their best not to let this happen. It is my hope that the states can be a laboratory of government policy and help Congress learn what it will take to lower greenhouse gas emissions while raising everyone’s standard of living.”

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