

## **Overview of Federal Climate Change Legislation**

### **Bill Names:**

House Bill – H.R. 2454, *The American Clean Energy and Security Act*, or Waxman-Markey

Senate Bill – S. 1733, *The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act*, or Kerry Boxer

### **Central Components:**

- **Carbon Cap** – requires polluters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and nitrogen trifluoride) by certain benchmarks over time. Major milestones are a 3% reduction by 2012, 20% reduction by 2020, 42% by 2030, and 83% by 2050. These benchmarks are higher in the Senate version of the bill than in the House bill.
- **Cap and Trade Program** – implements the carbon cap requirements through market-based system of trading and selling of pollution allowances. (See other handout.)
- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Incentives** – in the House bill, there are specific renewable energy and efficiency standard. In the current version of the Senate bill, there are incentives for individuals, businesses, utilities, and state and local governments to move to these energy sources, but no set requirement schedule.
- **Transportation Pollution Reduction** – creates new vehicle emission performance standards.
- **Offsets** – creates the framework for regulating emission offsets that can be produced and sold by certain entities.
- **Green Building Codes** – requires the federal government to promulgate rules creating an energy efficiency standard in new buildings and incentives energy efficiency in building retrofits.
- **Climate Change Adaptation** – creates a frame work for the federal and state governments to develop long-term plans for coping with the effects of climate change.
- **Nuclear and Clean Coal Incentives** – creates incentives for increased use of nuclear power and development of “clean coal” technologies. There are more of these in the Kerry-Boxer than Waxman-Markey

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