



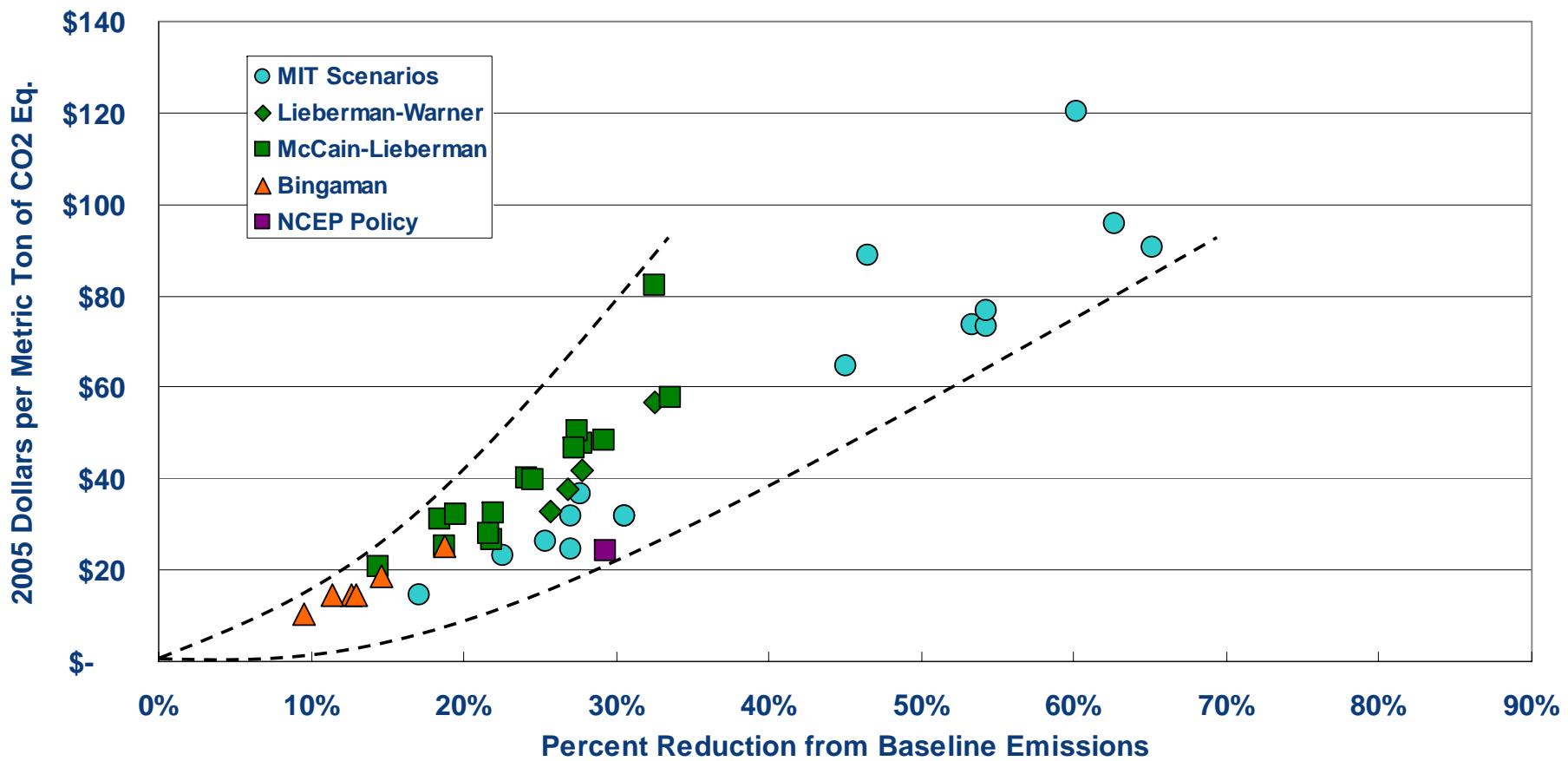
Congressional Budget Office

Near-Term and Long-Term Emissions Reductions: Technology, Coverage, and Costs

Panel II
Director's Conference on Climate Change
November 16, 2007



U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in 2030 (Not including offsets)





What Accounts for the Range of Cost Estimates?

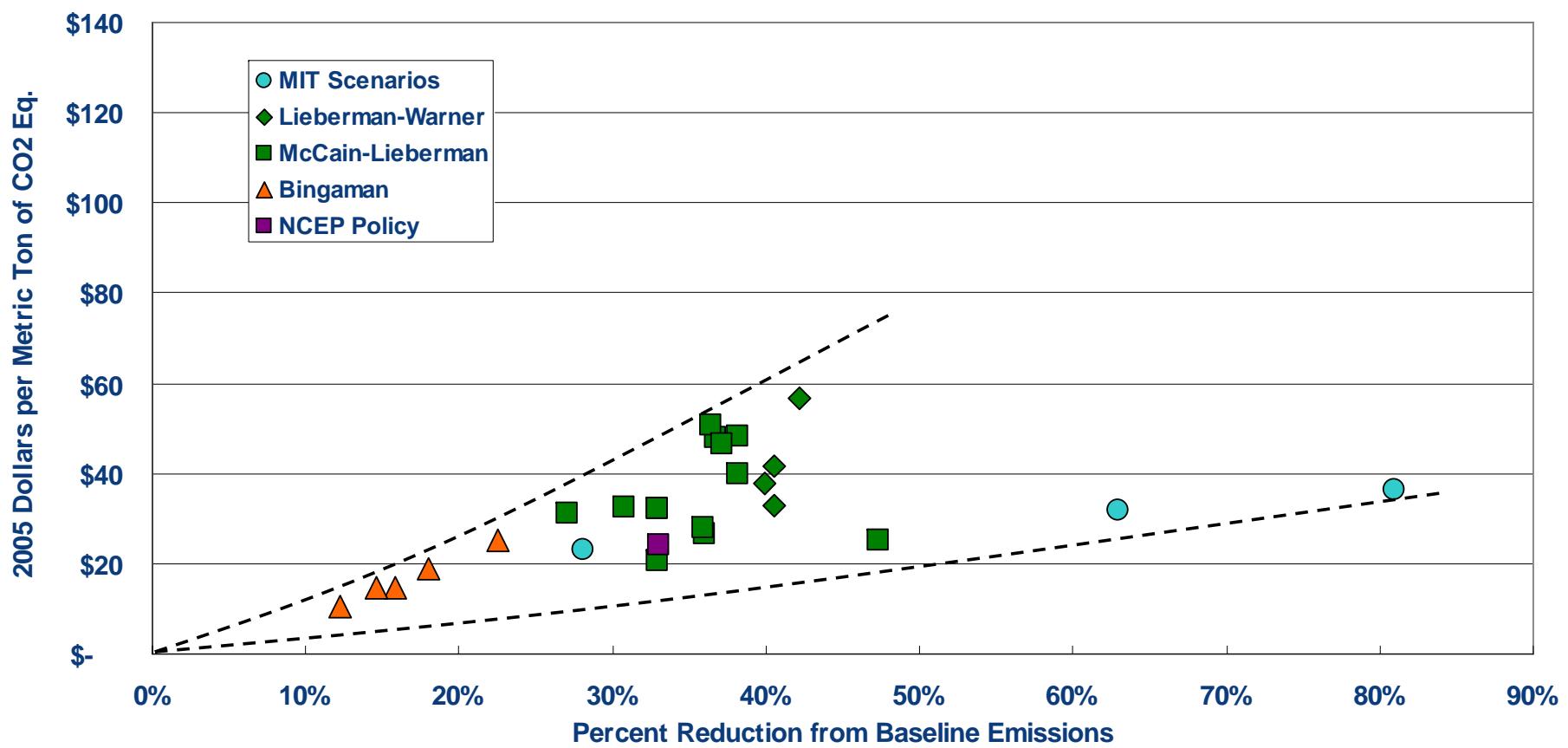
Differences in:

- How rapidly the economy and emissions are projected to grow (However, projections are similar across the studies, which may underestimate the range of uncertainty)
- How policy is assumed to be implemented: coverage, flexibility in timing of emissions reductions, and so forth
- How flexibly households and firms are expected to respond to the policy, and how they discount the future
- What technologies are projected to be available at different points in time
- What policies other countries are projected to be pursuing

Most of the models assume flexible, efficient responses but also largely assume specific technology paths. For both reasons, the full uncertainty in potential costs is probably larger than appears in these figures.

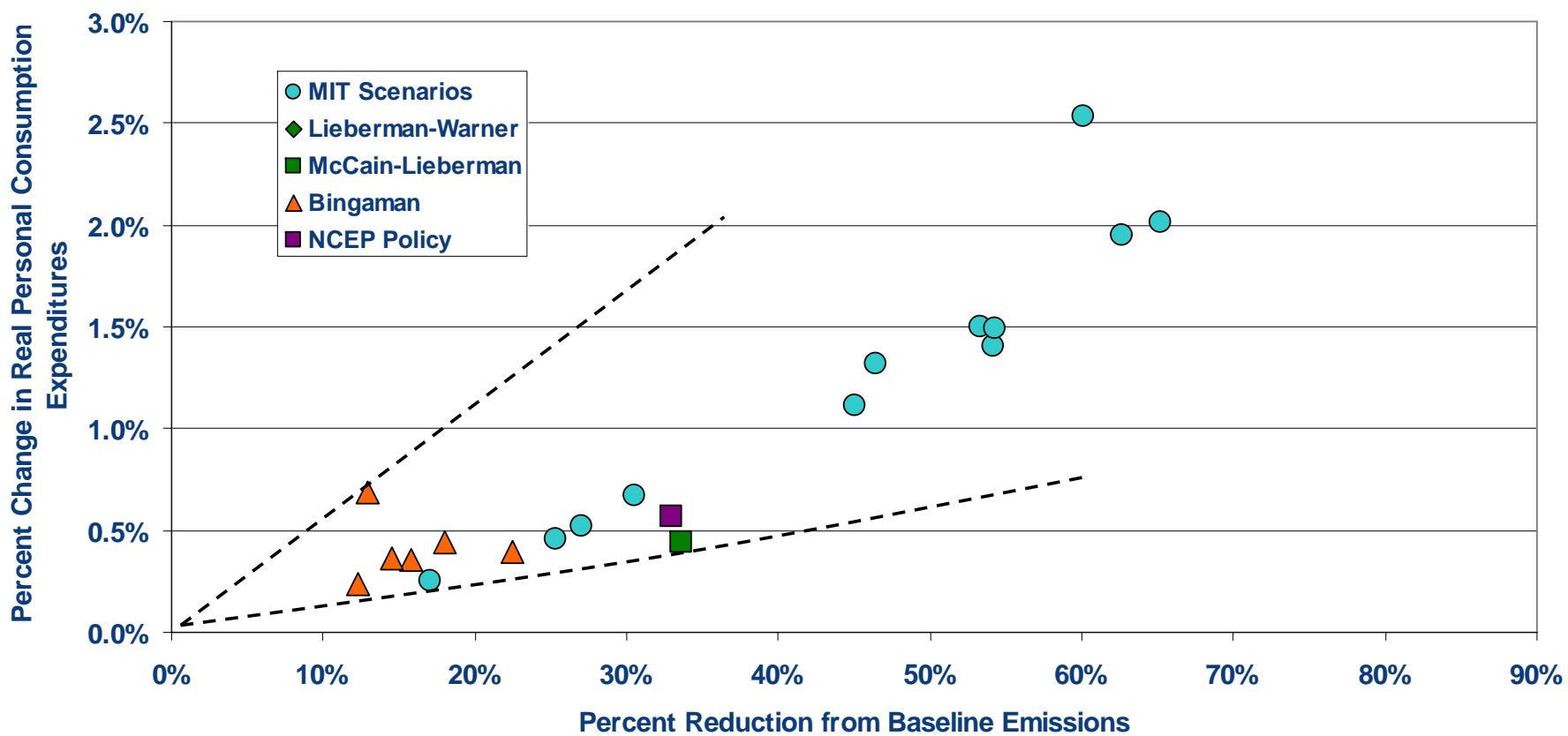


U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in 2030 (Including offsets)



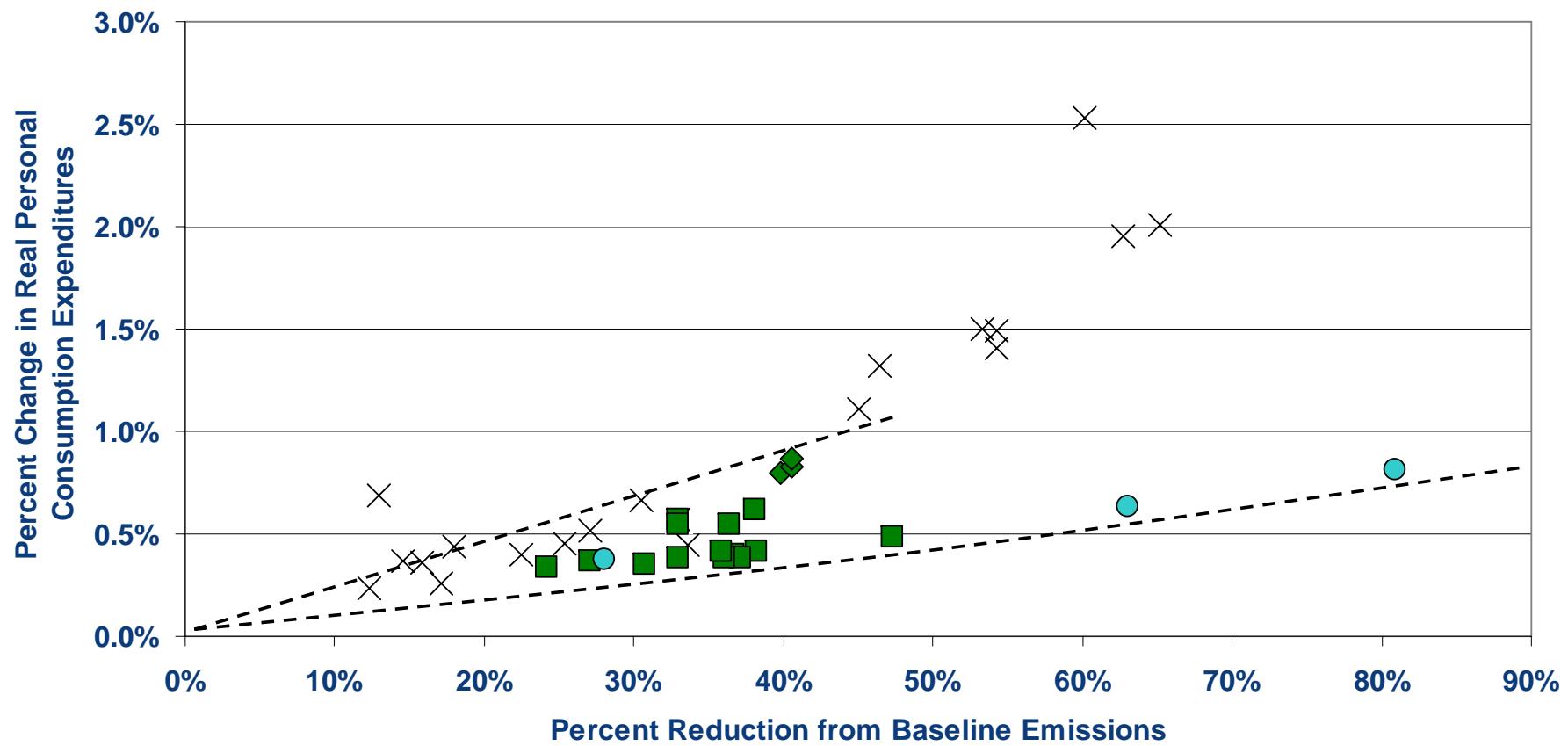


U.S. Consumption Losses in 2030 (Without international offsets)





U.S. Consumption Losses in 2030 (With international offsets)





What Accounts for the Range of Cost Estimates?

Near-Term Responses to Regulation (Through 2025):

- Energy demand responses are relatively modest
- Domestic response tends to be dominated by fuel switching and technology shifts in electricity generation—away from coal and mainly toward natural gas and/or nuclear
- Biological sequestration and international offsets could yield significant reductions at relatively modest cost, assuming moderate administration costs and low mitigation effort abroad



What Accounts for the Range of Cost Estimates?

Long-Term Responses to Regulation (After 2025):

- Offsets become increasingly less important over time, and most reductions come from the energy sector
- Technology is critical, but no consensus on what technologies will dominate
- There is likely to be a combination of responses: primarily carbon capture and sequestration, nuclear, and biofuels; other renewables and conservation appear to play relatively limited roles



Panel Members

Moderator: Robert Shackleton, CBO

Speakers:

- **Francisco De La Chesnaye, Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Howard K. Gruenspecht, Energy Information Administration**
- **Henry D. Jacoby, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
- **John P. Weyant, Stanford University**



References

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