



**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING**

**Opening Statement for Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
“State Leadership Towards a Low-Carbon Energy Future”
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
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Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously called the States “laboratories of democracy” – the places where innovative solutions to the Nation’s challenges are developed. Nowhere is the States’ pioneering role in our system more vital today than in the area of energy independence and global warming. While the Bush Administration has its head stuck in the sand on these critical issues, the States are in the vanguard of a green energy revolution.

Twenty states have now set binding limits on global warming pollution, most of them more stringent than the Kyoto Protocol targets. Ten northeastern states have set up the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – known as “RGGI” – the first regional carbon cap-and-trade system in the country. Six western states have formed the Western Climate Initiative, which calls for a 15% reduction in emissions by 2020 and will establish a cap-and-trade system to achieve that goal. And in the next two days, the 12-state Midwestern Governor’s Association is set to roll out yet another regional initiative to combat global warming and energy dependence. With each passing month, it seems, a new state joins this remarkable nationwide movement.

This morning, we welcome two governors who have been national leaders in this campaign – Governor Spitzer of New York and Governor Napolitano of Arizona. In addition to their participation in RGGI and the Western Climate Initiative, respectively, their states have established aggressive targets for reducing global warming pollution. Both New York and Arizona have adopted strong renewable electricity and efficiency standards. And, together with 13 other states, both have adopted or will soon adopt California’s clean car standards. Those standards can reduce tailpipe CO2 emissions by 30 percent and dramatically curb our dependence on foreign oil – but only if the Bush Administration gets out of the way by granting California’s waiver request. Perhaps most important, these states are demonstrating that the choice between protecting the planet and robust economic growth is a false one. While continued delay in addressing global warming will have terrible costs, prompt action can save billions in energy costs, secure our energy independence, and open the door to vast new markets for clean energy technology. We have a great deal to learn from these leaders’ pioneering efforts, and I look forward to their testimony this morning.

Although the States have taken the lead on global warming and energy independence, Congress must now put into practice what has been learned in these “laboratories of democracy.” First, we must send a strong energy bill to the President’s desk in the coming weeks. By boosting vehicle fuel efficiency and renewable fuel use,

the energy bill would, by 2030, reduce our demand for oil by nearly twice the amount we now import from the Persian Gulf. The best provisions of the House and Senate bills – including CAFE, a Renewable Electricity Standard, and a Renewable Fuel Standard – would achieve up to 40 percent of the emissions reductions needed to save the planet from global warming. With that down payment in place, we must then proceed as quickly as possible to enactment of an aggressive cap-auction-and-trade bill that will achieve the balance of the reductions needed.

The States have shown us the way forward. On a bipartisan basis, they have listened to the warning of science, recognized the looming danger to the people they represent, and acted to fill the void left by an administration which – to this day – does not concede that CO₂ emissions are a danger to public health and the environment. The state response has demonstrated that strong limits on carbon emissions have broad public support and that they are compatible with vigorous economic growth. And the States offer a message for the President as well, which I would echo and hope that he will heed: “Lead, follow, or get out of the way.”