



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

**Opening Statement for Chairman Edward J. Markey  
“After Bali – the UN Conference and  
Its Impact on International Climate Change Policy”  
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming  
December 19, 2007**

This hearing is called to order.

During the last two weeks, delegates from more than 180 nations, including the United States, met in Bali, Indonesia to begin the process of developing a post-2012 worldwide agreement to reduce global warming pollution. This past Saturday, these delegates adopted the Bali Action Plan, which puts in place a roadmap for negotiations over the next two years. This roadmap has been criticized for being too weak, too fuzzy and inadequate for leading us out of the climate wilderness. Today’s hearing will shine a light on the Bali agreement and give us a sense of whether we are headed towards climate catastrophe or climate responsibility.

The Bali Action Plan rests on four key pillars of climate policy: reduction of global warming pollution, adaptation to global warming impacts, technology development and transfer to developing countries, and financial investment to aid developing countries.

This roadmap appears to represent real progress in a number of key areas. Most importantly, it marks the first time that developing countries have agreed to consider taking actions to reduce their global warming pollution. The roadmap also increases the focus on adapting to the impacts of global warming that the world can no longer avoid. It recognizes the need to develop and deploy clean technology and steer global investment towards low-carbon ventures, as well as the importance of avoiding tropical deforestation in combating global warming.

The Bali Action Plan achieved these important steps forward despite being weakened by the continued opposition of the Bush Administration. Initial drafts of the roadmap included language based on the latest science that recognized the need for global heat-trapping emissions to peak within the next 10 to 15 years before declining by more than half by 2050, with developed countries reducing emissions 25 to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. In the face of opposition from Bush Administration negotiators, backed by Japan, Russia, and Canada, this language was dropped from the final action plan. These science-based guides to emissions targets were relegated from front-and-center to a footnote in the final document.

Although inclusion of these guides would have strengthened the roadmap, the leaders gathered at Bali did succeed in opening the door to negotiations on a new global

agreement. These negotiations represent an opportunity to address global warming comprehensively, but we still need global leadership to realize that opportunity. One message that emerged from the world's leaders in Bali is that we cannot afford to wait any longer to take international action to address global warming. The question now is whether the Bush Administration will continue to be a roadblock in this new path.

In the meantime, Congress has taken the critical first step to reduce our global warming pollution by passing a Democratic energy bill, which President Bush signed today, that raises the fuel economy standards of our vehicles for the first time in over thirty years and puts our national energy policy back on track. The energy bill is an important down-payment on solving the climate crisis -- reducing U.S. global warming emissions by up to a quarter of what's needed to save the planet by 2030. In the New Year, Congress will begin work on a cap-auction-and-trade bill, which will achieve the balance of the reductions needed and demonstrate the U.S. leadership that is essential to reach a global agreement under which all countries take action.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding panel of experts on the UN climate negotiations with us today. Many of our witnesses were in Bali participating in the negotiations and have graciously agreed to join us so soon after returning. I look forward to hearing all of your thoughts on the outcome of the Bali Conference and the next steps for international climate negotiations.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Sensenbrenner.