



Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER News From Congress

Number 182 – September 2009



“Cap and Trade” Brings Economic Cost without Environmental Benefit

The American Clean Energy and Security Act, (or Cap and Trade as some call it), narrowly passed the House of Representatives 219 to 212 in June. I **voted against this legislation, as it is merely a national energy tax. Wisconsinites don't need added costs to their bills now or in the future.**

I believe any bill capping CO2 emissions should meet four basic principles:

- #1 Protect jobs and the economy.*
- #2 Require global participation, specifically China, India and other developing nations.*
- #3 Produce actual, tangible improvements to the environment.*
- #4 Support the development of technology.*

In my opinion, the Cap and Trade legislation that the House passed achieves none of these.

If this becomes law, **Fifth District residents will see their costs increase when they pay their electric bills, buy groceries or fill up their gas tanks.**

The Congressional Budget Office estimates an annual gross tax of up to \$1400 per household from this legislation.

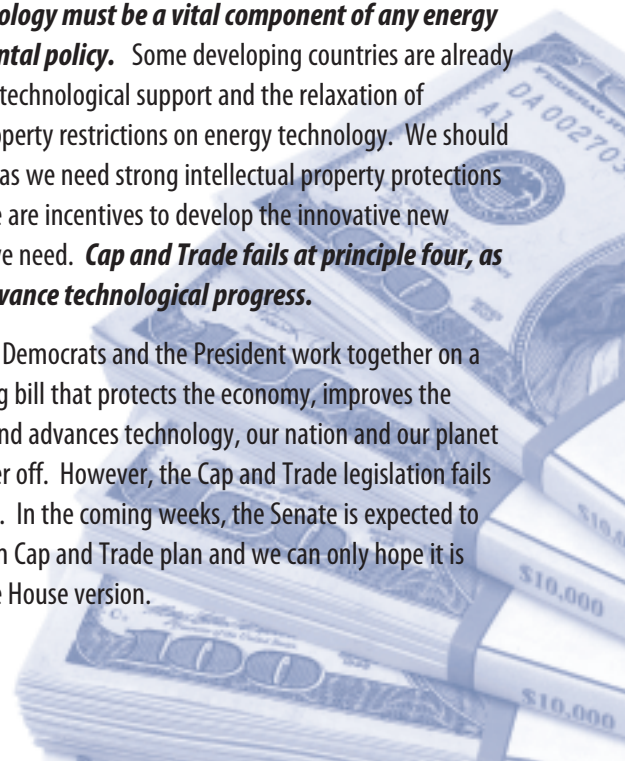
Not only will consumers feel the pinch as companies pass along their increased energy costs, but workers will also feel the pinch as their jobs are sent to developing countries, such as China. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, this legislation will lead to the elimination of approximately 1.8 to 2.4 million U.S. jobs over the next 20 years. If that wasn't enough, the Cap and Trade bill includes nearly \$2.2 trillion in international wealth transfer by 2050, making it the biggest non-military foreign aid bill in history. **Cap and Trade fails at principle one, as it does not protect jobs or the economy.**

My next concern is that any action taken by the U.S., Europe and other developed nations to control greenhouse gases, would be insignificant, unless developing nations like India and China (the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases) agree to mandatory emissions cuts. These countries have repeatedly refused to do so. The rapid growth in emissions from India and China would quickly overwhelm any reductions from the United States. **Cap and Trade fails at principle two, as it does not require global participation.**

While some may say this legislation is needed to protect the planet, the *\$800 billion* we'd spend on this bill over the next nine years would only reduce global temperatures by approximately two-tenths of one degree over the next 100 years. Across Europe, since implementing a cap-and-trade system in 2005, greenhouse gas emissions have risen 0.8 percent according to an analysis by Open Europe, a London-based group. **Cap and Trade fails at principle three, as it does not produce actual improvements to the environment.**

Finally, technology must be a vital component of any energy or environmental policy. Some developing countries are already asking for free technological support and the relaxation of intellectual property restrictions on energy technology. We should not allow this, as we need strong intellectual property protections to ensure there are incentives to develop the innovative new technologies we need. **Cap and Trade fails at principle four, as it does not advance technological progress.**

If Republicans, Democrats and the President work together on a global warming bill that protects the economy, improves the environment and advances technology, our nation and our planet would be better off. However, the Cap and Trade legislation fails on all accounts. In the coming weeks, the Senate is expected to develop its own Cap and Trade plan and we can only hope it is better than the House version.



The Wrong Prescription for America

Like so many residents of the Fifth District, I am concerned about a public plan health care option.

While I support health care reform and believe health care should be more *accessible* and more *affordable*, **I will not vote for the health care legislation supported by President Obama**, as it is the **wrong path** for our country.

I believe in several key principles as we talk about health care reform:

- #1 *No bureaucrat should get between you and your doctor.*
- #2 *Any new program must not create a delay in you receiving care.*
- #3 *You should be allowed to keep and maintain your current benefits.*
- #4 *We need to know how much we're spending and how to pay for it.*

It's important to note that **Republicans have offered a good, alternative health care bill**, which expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the health care that fits their needs – without imposing a tax hike on small businesses and working families. However, being the minority, there's little hope that the plan makes it on the agenda. Therefore, we need to carefully review the proposed legislation.

A review of the **consequences and costs** of the proposed legislation – over both the short term and long term – is cause for concern.

Patients and Their Doctors are Best Able to Make Medical Decisions, Not Slow, Washington Bureaucrats. You and your doctor are best equipped to make the decisions regarding your health. The proposed legislation gives bureaucrats far too much authority in making those decisions, and may delay your ability to receive care when you really need it.

With that being said, the government shouldn't be promoting some doctor/patient discussions. I remain concerned with a very broadly written provision in section 1233 of the bill that would pay physicians to consult with senior citizens on Medicare about their end of life options, such as hospice and advanced directives. I fear that with the plan already being on the wrong path, these government paid consultations could encourage assisted suicide or other forms of euthanasia.

The Opportunity to "Keep Your Insurance If You Like It" is Unlikely. While it will be a few years before this takes effect,

eventually, all insurance plans will be required to cover a specified list of benefits. If your plan doesn't cover all of the essential benefits, you will be required to get a new plan or pay a 2.5 percent tax.

Additionally, if your employer's insurance plan does not cover all of the essential benefits, your employer will be charged an 8 percent penalty tax. That 8 percent will likely come out of the funds used to hire new employees or provide additional perks to current employees. An employer may also find that paying the 8 percent penalty is more cost efficient than providing their employees with insurance, and therefore, drop coverage – leaving employees with the public plan. Based on U.S. Census data, nearly 2 out of 3 of Wisconsin small businesses will be impacted by this.

And for the 27,156 seniors in the Fifth District who use Medicare Advantage, the Democrats have proposed harmful cuts to the program that will result in millions of seniors losing their health coverage.

The True Costs of Health Care Reform are Drastically Understated. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that **the current House health care bill would add \$240 billion to the deficit over the next decade.**

However, if we let history be our guide, the proposed legislation will likely cost dramatically more. For example, in 1967, when Medicare was being debated, it was estimated that in 1990, Medicare would cost \$12 billion annually. In actuality, in 1990, Medicare cost \$110 billion – nearly ten times more than the estimate. This is a cautionary tale, as Democrats will likely need to offset these costs by introducing new tax laws.

Current Waste Should Be Rooted Out Before We Spend More on New Programs. Before we create a new, costly, health entitlement program, we should first reduce the amount of money being wasted in current programs by making them more accountable and efficient.

The bottom line is that this legislation is just bad medicine that will make our health care system sicker – and if it becomes law, it will be nearly impossible for us to recover.

SIGN UP FOR NEWS FROM JIM

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Meet my D.C. Interns



Congressman Sensenbrenner and his Spring and Summer interns. From Left to Right: Mike DeTerra from Green Bay, a student at Catholic University; John Seifert from Brookfield, a student at St. Norbert College; and Austin Slaymaker from Oklahoma and a student at Oklahoma State University. Each received a great experience working at the Capitol and seeing firsthand how a bill becomes a law. We appreciated their hard work. If you'd like to intern in Congressman Sensenbrenner's D.C. or Brookfield office, visit his website to learn more.

**CHECK OUT MY
NEW WEBSITE**

Visit my newly designed website at <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov/>.

The upgraded site makes it easier than ever for you to: get the latest news, see legislation I've sponsored and co-sponsored, read my weekly column, seek assistance with a federal agency, order a flag, schedule a tour, send me an email and see the list of upcoming Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To write about issues or request publications, contact me at:

2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905
TEL: (202) 225-5101

To get help with federal agencies, contact me at:

120 Bishops Way, #154, Brookfield, WI 53005-6294
TEL: (262) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: **(800) 242-1119**
Website and email link: <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov>

Cut along the dotted lines and mail.

PURCHASE A FLAG FLOWN OVER THE U.S. CAPITOL

American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol are available for purchase at cost. Each flag comes with a personally signed certificate from Congressman Sensenbrenner. Rules of the House of Representatives expressly prohibit the resale or use for commercial purposes of the flag.

If you would like to place an order, please make your check or money order payable to **SENSENBRENNER OFFICE SUPPLY ACCOUNT** and send it along with this order form to the address below. Please allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery. Limit 3 per household.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Number	Size	Price	Total
	3' x 5' nylon	\$18.00	\$
	4' x 6' nylon	\$24.65	\$
	5' x 8' nylon	\$29.15	\$
Grand Total			\$

SEND ORDER TO:

Sensenbrenner Office Supply Account
120 Bishops Way, #154
Brookfield, WI 53005-6294

Please join me at an Upcoming Town Hall Meeting...

This year, I've already held 126 Town Hall Meetings or Office Hours throughout the Fifth District. This newsletter includes my schedule of meetings for the rest of the year. As Congress is discussing many hot topics, I welcome and encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings, and share what's on your mind, or just say hello and introduce yourself. I also invite you to come if you are experiencing problems with a federal agency and need assistance. If you need any special accommodations to attend, please contact my district office at (262) 784-1111.

Saturday, September 12th

9:30am – Port Washington Public Library

Saturday, September 19th

9:00am – Brookfield Public Safety Building

1:00pm – West Allis Public Library

Sunday, September 20th

4:00pm – West Bend City Hall

Sunday, September 27th

7:00pm – Richfield Village Hall

Monday, September 28th

7:00pm – New Berlin City Hall

Saturday, October 10th

9:00am – Oconomowoc City Hall

Sunday, October 11th

4:00pm – Mequon Public Safety Building

Saturday, October 17th

9:00am – Germantown Village Hall

1:00pm – Shorewood Village Hall

Saturday, October 24th

9:00am – Hartford City Hall

1:00pm – Glendale/North Shore Public Library

Sunday, October 25th

4:00pm – Waukesha Town Hall

Saturday, October 31st

9:00am – Brown Deer Village Hall

1:00pm – Elm Grove Village Hall

Saturday, November 7th

9:00am – Grafton Village Hall

1:00pm – Hartland Village Hall

Sunday, November 8th

4:00pm – Whitefish Bay Village Hall

Saturday, November 14th

9:00am – Pewaukee City Hall

1:00pm – Menomonee Falls Village Hall

Sunday, November 15th

7:00pm – Cedarburg Police Department



Congressman Sensenbrenner received the "Taxpayers' Friend Award" in May from the National Taxpayers Union, an independent tax watchdog group. The award honors his commitment to reducing or controlling federal spending, taxes, debt and regulation. Congressman Sensenbrenner received the highest score in the Wisconsin delegation, and was 13th overall in the House of Representatives, resulting in an 'A' grade. There are more than 7,500 NTU Members from Wisconsin.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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