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Renewable Energy Tax Credits

Tax incentives to accelerate the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies are a very important step in breaking our dependence on foreign oil. In May of this year, the House of Representatives passed legislation to extend renewable energy tax credits. *The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act* (H.R. 6049), provides a six-year extension of the tax credit for investment in solar power. The bill extends tax credits for three years for energy produced from biomass, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas, and solid waste. It provides a one-year extension of the tax credit for wind energy. The legislation also provides incentives for plug-in hybrid vehicles, development of energy efficient products, and energy conservation residential and commercial buildings. I was proud to vote for this bill, and hope that the Senate will take it up soon.

Protect California Emission Laws

California was recently denied a waiver by the federal EPA to regulate its own emissions under the Clean Air Act. The decision comes two years after the state's application and went against recommendations from the professional staff at the EPA to grant the waiver. With the evidence for global warming continuing to mount, we cannot allow the Administration to prevent progressive states like California from choosing to adopt higher standards for air quality to protect the environment. I've cosponsored the Right to Clean Vehicles Act, H.R. 5560 which will overturn the EPA's decision and enable California and other states to set tighter standards on vehicle tailpipe emissions. California has justifiably sued the EPA over the waiver denial. If the courts overturn the decision, which seems likely, this legislation would not be needed.

CONGRESSWOMAN

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14th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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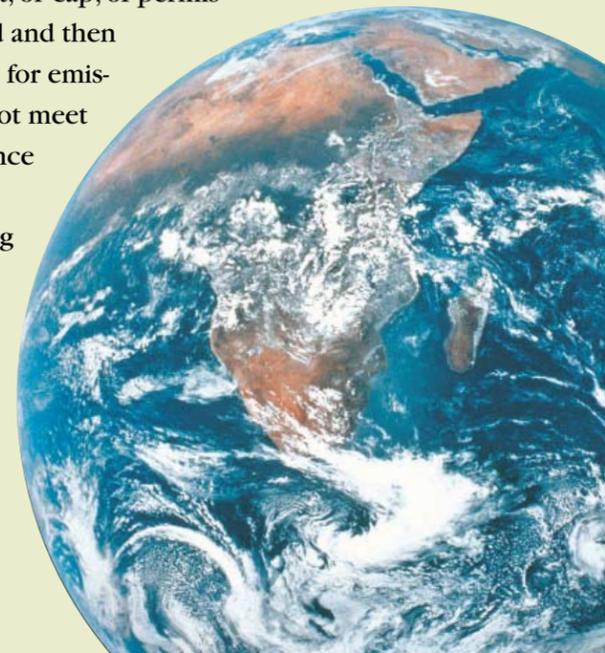
Improving the Energy Efficiency of Data Centers



The servers and electronic equipment in computer data centers consume a great deal of energy to run them and to cool them. That's why I included a provision in the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007* which created a program to develop ENERGY STAR ratings and best practices to improve the efficiency of data centers. There are now over 70 companies and government agencies enrolled in the program, providing the EPA with information over the course of a year that will enable the development of ENERGY STAR ratings.

Cap and Trade Legislation to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

There are a number of pieces of legislation pending in both the House and the Senate that will regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. I'm an original sponsor of the *Safe Climate Act* (H.R. 1590) which freezes GHG emissions at 2009 levels beginning in 2010 and calls for progressive reductions thereafter. The bill sets up what is referred to as a cap-and-trade system in which an upper limit, or cap, of permissible GHG emissions is defined and then creates a system of allowances for emissions. Companies which cannot meet the cap must purchase allowance credits from those which pollute less. The cost of purchasing allowances serves as incentive to quickly reduce GHG emissions. Cap and trade is an effective method at regulating pollutants and will likely be a cornerstone of climate change legislation considered by Congress.





FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA ESHOO

Dear Friends,

In March of this year I had the privilege of traveling to the United Kingdom and India with a bipartisan Congressional Delegation led by the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. The purpose of the trip was to meet with government and private sector leaders in order to strengthen our efforts to stem the global climate crisis and help create a positive prelude to next year's United Nations Global Compact Summit in Copenhagen.

The Delegation met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at No. 10 Downing Street to discuss the United Kingdom's efforts to enact climate change legislation. The UK bill would establish a "cap-and-trade" program, setting economy-wide limits (or caps) on the pollutants and gases responsible for climate change that are produced by manufacturing, vehicles, and other industries. These caps restrict the permissible levels of pollutants allowed on an industry-specific basis. Any unused allowances under the caps can be sold or traded, forcing heavy polluters to provide a subsidy to more efficient and clean energy producers and consumers, and creating incentives for all industries to substantially reduce their emissions.

We continued our trip to India to meet with top government and business leaders in New Delhi and Mumbai. We held discussions with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh; with the nation's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Shyam Seran; with Dr. R.K. Pachauri, winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore, and a team of global-warming experts from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). We explored areas of cooperation between the U.S. and India to advance the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies which will help India's development, enhance both countries' national security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our meetings addressed ways to cut carbon emissions and increase the use of clean-energy technologies.

India is developing rapidly and is projected to become the world's third largest emitter of carbon dioxide by 2015. The U.S. is now the #1 largest emitter of carbon dioxide and China is the second-largest consumer of energy burning 40% of the world's coal. The U.S. must lead with enlightened policies in order to have standing to encourage other countries to lead the way in developing renewable energy technologies and enact comprehensive global warming legislation. Our climate policies must achieve four key goals:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reverse dangerous global warming.
2. Transition the U.S. to a clean energy economy.
3. Minimize economic impacts from global warming legislation.
4. Aid communities and ecosystems vulnerable to harm from global warming.

Adoption of these principles as part of comprehensive climate change legislation will meet the U.S.'s obligation to curb greenhouse gas emissions and provide a pathway to international cooperation necessary to address global warming. As a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I believe that we should set aggressive targets for emissions reductions and I've sponsored legislation that will require an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 relative to 1990 levels. These are the strongest reductions of any bill in Congress.

The last stop of our trip brought us to Dharamsala where we visited His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We discussed the tragic violence taking place in Tibet and we agreed that an open dialogue with the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) and international pressure are the most effective methods for ending the crisis. As a direct result of this meeting, the House passed a Resolution which I cosponsored that condemned the PRC for its bloody suppression of the Tibetan people and calls on the government of the PRC to invite the Dalai Lama to China to enter into a dialogue to resolve the root causes of unrest in the Tibetan areas of China.

I was honored to represent you on the Congressional Delegation and hope you will share your insights on global climate change and any other issues with me.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Congresswoman Eshoo meets with schoolchildren in Dharamsala during March trip with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and bi-partisan delegation.



Congresswoman Eshoo meets with the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala to discuss violence in Tibet.

