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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate, or Joint)

**Committee on ...
Environment and Natural Resources
(SC-ENR)**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... **HR ... bills and resolutions** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (July/2014)

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources

From: Scott Wiseman, Vice-President Midwest Region
Center for Energy and Economic Development (CEED),

Date: September 25, 2007

RE: SB 81, Management of Greenhouse Gases

CEED would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to provide background information on this important issue. Generally, we have reservations over state programs that impose emission limitations on greenhouse gases, and thus oppose SB 81 in its current form. To the extent committee members may evaluate this legislation in light of initiatives in other states; we have attached an informative piece on such programs recently produced by the American Council for Capital Formation.

CEED's membership includes many of the nation's major coal-burning utilities, coal-hauling railroads, coal companies, barge and trucking companies, and manufacturers that supply these industries. In addition to this broad industry coalition, the United Mine Workers, the United Transportation Union and Unions for Jobs and the Environment are non dues paying members.

Global climate change has been a central issue in CEED's advocacy efforts. Climate change policy cannot be separated from broader energy security, economic development, and environmental policies. Policies to achieve the goal of reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions manifest themselves at a time when electricity demand in the U.S. continues to mount.

Nationwide, the ability to provide a reliable supply of electricity is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge, according to the National Electricity Reliability Council (NERC). NERC projects that the available installed capacity margin will decline nationally from approximately 18% in 2005 to about 7% in 2015. For general reliability planning purposes, NERC recommends a national reserve margin of 11% and a 15% reserve margin in the Midwest Region to ensure a safe and stable supply of electricity.

Even under NERC's base-case scenario (that assumes no mandatory greenhouse gas regulations), some regions of the country will slip under the desired safe reserve margins within the next few years. Clearly, regulation of utility greenhouse gas emissions will further exacerbate this situation.

According to forecasts by the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) and others, some of the most severe federal greenhouse gas emissions mandates would reduce electricity supply by 7% in 2020 and by 8% in 2025. Rigorous, immediate GHG reductions caused by state regulation, outside of a more complete federal regime would bring about similar electric grid constraints.

Having an abundant supply of affordable electricity promotes economic growth in Wisconsin. Lower energy costs translate into stronger state economic development. According to a March 2006 study by Management Information Services, Inc., from 2000 to 2005, the ten states with lower business energy costs enjoyed 60% higher average employment growth compared to the ten states with the highest energy costs. Further, four of the ten states with the highest business energy costs experienced net job losses over the same period.

A report in the April 4, 2007 *Washington Post* illustrates how catastrophic a “state-only” regulatory regime can be harmful to the economy: “...Europe's Greenhouse Gas reduction program has driven electricity prices so high that (a manufacturing) facility routinely shuts down for part of the day to save money on power. Although demand for its products is strong, the plant has laid off 40 of its 130 employees and trimmed production. Two customers have turned to cheaper imports from China, which is not covered by Europe's costly regulations.”

The cost of electricity not only promotes economic development, but also profoundly affects the lives of thousands of Wisconsin's most vulnerable citizens. For those living on low or fixed-incomes, energy costs consume 20% to 46% of total household income.

Several Major News Outlets reported last week that the *Congressional Budget Office* says a CO2 cap-and-trade program would drive up consumer energy prices and would hit low-income households the hardest. The report says “the costs of meeting a cap on CO2 would be borne by consumers, who would face persistently higher prices for products such as electricity and gasoline.” Those increased costs would be “regressive” because the poor “would bear a larger burden relative to their income,” according to the report. Given the demonstrated linkage between household income and health, surges in energy costs can be expected to damage the quality of life of the one-in-three American households with an annual income of \$30,000 or less.

The publication *Carbon Control News* recently reported that a group called “The U.S. Climate Action Network (USCAN), which includes environmental justice groups as well as mainstream environmental organizations like the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), is also urging consideration of equity issues as part of climate change legislation, according to a March 19 letter by the group to House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI), who is seeking input on drafting the nation's first mandatory greenhouse gas (GHG) controls. ‘Global warming legislation must mitigate against any disproportionate impacts on low income and vulnerable communities,’ the USCAN letter says.”

How Wisconsin handles dealing with climate change issues have implications on how it copes with electricity rates, energy supply and economic development. Other states and Congress have undergone or are undergoing similar exercises presently or in the last few years.

Governor Doyle and the Governors of Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota have convened special climate panels to receive input from every effected stakeholder and recommend various courses of action. Contradictory to the Midwestern states, the California legislature, last year, without significant stakeholder input, passed a bill calling for the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. California state agencies are now trying to figure out how to meet this target, given the state's huge economy and rapid population growth rate. Apparently that state's experience with a deregulated electricity market a few years ago failed to serve as a sufficient example of what can happen when laws are made without input from the a broad array of interested and knowledgeable participants.

New England and other northeastern states convened a stakeholder process in 2004 to develop a regional plan for reducing carbon emissions from electric utilities. Initial proposals required reductions of up to 25% below 1990 emission levels. After three years' of study and debate, the Northeastern states agreed to freeze utility emissions at current levels for the next 10 years, and then to require a 10% reduction by 2019.

On March 20, 2007, the *Environmental Council of States*, or "ECOS," a national association of the heads of all state environmental agencies, adopted a resolution that "...urges Congress and (U.S.) EPA to work closely with ECOS and the states to expeditiously adopt a national program to reduce GHG emissions in this country in a cost-effective, coordinated, and streamlined manner that enhances the nation's competitiveness in a worldwide economy, ensures a safe, secure, predictable and reliable energy future and builds upon state GHG reduction programs..."

Finally, the promising part of the discussion of how to address global climate issues lies in the development of future technologies that promise to greatly reduce or even eliminate coal's contribution to global warming. These technologies, such as sequestering carbon dioxide underground, need time to fully mature and become cost-effective. Meanwhile, policymakers must consider these emerging trends as they discuss balanced actions and responsible measures.

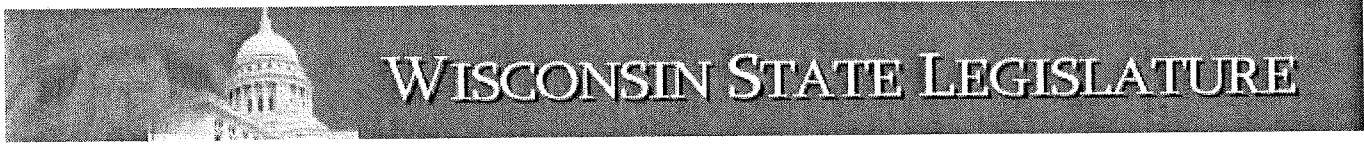
Citizens of the State of Wisconsin or relying upon its elected officials to balance the needs of its most vulnerable citizens and the need for a thriving economy with the need to address the climate change issue. Congressional action is the most preferable forum for this national, and indeed, global concern. Please carefully consider any actions the State of Wisconsin may take on this matter in light of the discussion on Capitol Hill and in light of many of the factors outlined here.

Thank you for your consideration.

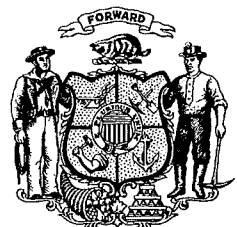
Scott Wiseman is the Vice President for the Midwest Region for the Center for Energy and Economic Development or CEED. CEED's mission is to educate decision makers and contribute toward the development of energy and environmental policies, primarily at the regional, state and local levels.

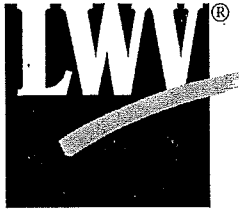
As Regional Vice President, Mr. Wiseman is engaged in eleven Midwestern states on issues that have the most profound effect on the coal-based electricity industry's viability. Mr. Wiseman has had industry leadership roles on issues such as energy policy, multi-emissions proposals, climate change, mercury, New Source Review and regional haze.

CEED was formed in 1992. Wiseman joined CEED in August 2005, after serving in several capacities in Illinois state government, most recently as the Executive Director of the Illinois Commerce Commission and Chief of Staff of the Illinois Department of Revenue.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

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September 25, 2007

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Support for Senate Bill 81

While the political arena is still divided, scientific circles agree that global warming is a reality. Human activity - especially within the United States - is changing global climate patterns in a way that will be devastating to our planet. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin believes the measures proposed in SB 81, the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act, will help to reverse the effects of global warming.

Since 1990, Wisconsin emissions of carbon dioxide - the primary cause of global warming - have increased by 25%, significantly more than the increase of emissions in the nation as a whole. Under the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act, a mandatory reporting system will track and monitor greenhouse gas emission levels in the state. A cap and trade market system and a broad requirement allowing for flexibility in implementing reduction programs will allow Wisconsin to reduce emissions at the least possible cost.

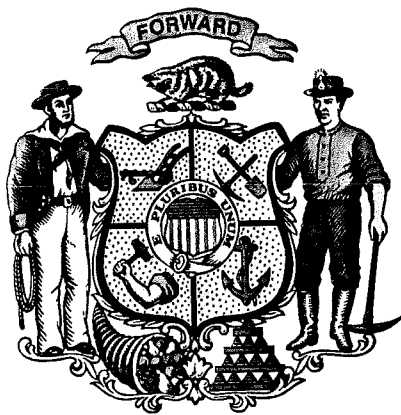
While sparking needed environmental change in our nation, the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act also aims to protect resources for the benefit of Wisconsin's future generations. Continuing climate change would be detrimental to myriad native plants and animals in Wisconsin, causing major problems for both agriculture and forestry. Globally, recent summers have testified to the increase in violent weather systems and vicious and deadly heat waves, also associated with global warming. Climate change is also linked to numerous public health risks, including an increase in the spread of disease and famine.

Not only is a healthy environment at stake in Wisconsin; so is a stable, sustainable economy. A phenomenal economic crisis is possible if Wisconsin does not move away from carbon emitting, old technology coal-fired power plants. By addressing this problem now, Wisconsin consumers will save in the future. Wisconsin is also uniquely positioned to profit from a global warming solution, with strong biotech and biofuel industries. Pollution control is a growth industry, and the state will benefit immensely by encouraging sustainable technologies.

Following a two year study on Wisconsin's Energy Policy, a united League membership updated our positions on Global Warming and Electric Energy Policy. Specifically, we support the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act because:

- SB 81 inventories the greenhouse gases that are causing warmer temperatures and harming wildlife habitat and Wisconsin agriculture.
- SB 81 begins reducing global warming emissions by an achievable 2% per year to reach 1990 levels by 2020.
- SB 81 encourages and accelerates investments in energy efficiency and the development of clean renewable energy resources. Wind and biomass for energy generation can provide a cash crop to farms and revitalize rural communities.
- Through this legislation and the work of the Governor's Global Warming Task Force, Wisconsin can be a regional leader in smart energy solutions, while surrounding states are also working on climate action plans.

While the federal administration has repeatedly refused to confront global warming, state level government around the country is leading the way. We urge you to vote in favor of SB 81.





MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2007

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Edward J. Wilusz
Vice President, Government Relations

Subject: **Senate Bill 81**

Senate Bill 81 would set up a regulatory process intended to reduce statewide emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020. The Wisconsin Paper Council is opposed to Senate Bill 81.

To provide some background, Wisconsin is the nation's leading papermaking state and has been for over 50 years. The paper industry manufactures products that are made from renewable resources, are highly recyclable, and store carbon.

Our industry is also very energy intensive. We are the largest industrial energy user in the state. We are also the largest industrial CO₂ emitter in state. This means that CO₂ reduction mandates, such as those in SB 81, would directly impact our industry.

Our members are not sitting idly by on the energy and CO₂ emission fronts. Wausau Paper has reduced energy use per ton of production by 23% since 2001. Stora Enso has a comprehensive energy conservation program that has resulted in energy reductions of 14% per ton of production and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by about 700,000 tons. Packaging Corporation of America recovers bio-gas from its wastewater treatment plant, which reduces natural gas usage and 75,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually. Flambeau River Paper is on track to become energy self-sufficient, with all on-site energy generated from bio-fuels, resulting in a carbon neutral facility.

Our concerns with SB 81 are on two levels. On a broader policy level, the paper industry operates in a global competitive marketplace. Climate change is a global issue. Meaningful responses must be made on a global scale. Narrow responses are likely to impose economic costs for environmental benefits that are so small as to not be measurable.

Similarly, all sectors of the economy emit greenhouse gases and, to the extent that a fair global approach can be developed, all sectors of the economy must be part of the solution. According to 2003 estimates from the World Resources Institute, electric utilities contribute 35% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions, transportation contributes 24%, industry contributes about 16% (both on-site energy generation and process emissions), agriculture contributes 9%, residential about 9%, commercial 5%, and waste about 3%. All of these sectors have a role to play in any policy solution.

Looking at the details of SB 81, we have several questions and concerns. The bill requires DNR to establish a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit equal to 1990 levels. The regulatory framework for meeting the statewide limit consists of DNR identifying significant sources, requiring emission monitoring and reporting of these significant sources, preparing a plan to achieve the maximum emission reduction from significant sources, and establishing emission limits and reduction measures. The emission limits and reduction measures do not appear to be limited to significant sources. However, DNR rules must ensure that greenhouse gas reductions are permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable.

The likely practical effect of focusing the reduction requirements on significant sources that must monitor and report, and sources that must quantify and verify emission reductions, is that the reduction requirements likely could only be applied to traditional stationary emission sources – utilities and industries. It would seem to be impractical to require monitoring and reporting or to ensure that reductions are permanent, quantifiable and verifiable from transportation, agricultural, residential, commercial, or waste sources. The result would be that two sectors that account for about half of statewide greenhouse gas emissions would be responsible for achieving the entire statewide reduction. This would be unfair and a prescription for failure.

SB 81, like most other greenhouse gas reduction proposals, keys off of 1990 emissions. The reality is that, despite estimates by some groups, nobody really knows what 1990 emissions were and DNR's best estimate would be nothing more than a guess. Yet, on the compliance and enforcement side, significant sources would be required to monitor emissions. This creates a disconnect between the way the limit is set and the way it is enforced, which violates one of the most basic tenets of fair environmental regulation. It should also be noted that CO₂ monitoring systems are expensive and not typically in place at sources outside the utility industry.

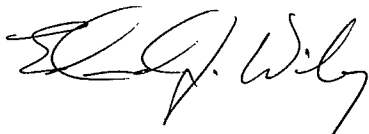
A positive concept included in the bill is that of technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness. From a practical standpoint, for industrial sources, technological

feasibility isn't the issue. There are plenty of technologically feasible options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The concern is cost. The inclusion of a cost-effectiveness test is positive, but the definition is troubling. Cost-effectiveness is based on the cost per ton of emissions reduced. Although used in other regulatory programs, this approach can have the effect of making a reduction option look viable, when the actual total cost is not.

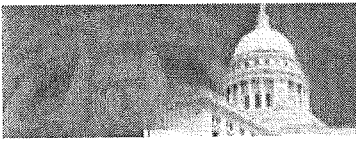
We cannot provide a reliable estimate of what compliance with SB 81 might cost the paper industry – with program details left to DNR there are simply too many unanswered questions. However, since over half of our industry's CO₂ emissions result from the combustion of coal, it is logical to conclude that modifications to boilers would be necessary. Boiler replacements or rebuilds are extremely expensive – \$25 million and up per project. With dozens of coal fired boilers in the industry, the total cost could be extremely high.

The bulk of the emission reduction burden would likely fall on the utility sector. We have no reliable estimates of the total cost of compliance for utilities or the electric rate increases that would accompany these costs, but we anticipate that rate increases would be substantial. On a regional basis, Wisconsin has already gone from being a low-cost energy state to being above average in cost. This is due, in part, to efforts to rebuild and improve our energy infrastructure and improve electric reliability. Adding significant greenhouse gas compliance costs to the picture could easily push annual electric rate increases well into double digits. This is a cost increase that an energy intensive industry like ours could not absorb and remain competitive.

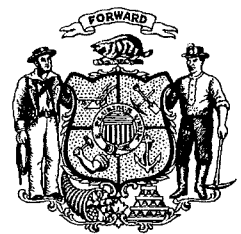
We urge you to not support SB 81.



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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Statement Prepared for The Senate Committee on Natural Resources
In Support of Senate Bill 81 - Wisconsin's Safe Climate Act
September 25th 2007

My name is Elizabeth Wessel and I live in Madison, WI. I am a parent of two teenagers; a member of a faith community that has passed a Statement of Conscience on global warming (Unitarian Universalists) that urges its community to action on this issue; and the owner of Green Concierge Travel, a travel agency dedicated to expanding ecotravel/ecotourism which considers the impact of travel, business or leisure, on destinations and the broader environment.

I support SB81 and the creation of Greenhouse gas reduction goals for the State Of Wisconsin. I have three areas I wish to address today as we move towards the adoption of a state policy. I:

- Support the creation, inclusion and empowerment of a *greenhouse gas environmental justice council* in s.15.347(5) of the SB81. The creation of such a council provides a mechanism to account for the disproportionate impacts of both the environmental and health impacts of greenhouse gases but ALSO the impacts of the solutions that we devise to reduce and eliminate the emission of these gases. As we rush to solutions, it is imperative that we consider the implications of our actions. Toward this end, I urge the authors of the bill to consider adding language that ensures the members of this council are selected from communities that not only "have the most significant exposure to air pollutants" as stated in the bill, but also those who stand to have difficulties in meeting the challenges of solutions because of income or those that may be impacted by new environmental hazards generated by solutions to global warming. We should not assume these populations are the same.

- Support the involvement of other state agencies in both addressing how each agency's activities contribute to global warming but also how each agency can be part of the solution. I respectfully suggest to the authors of this bill and the Committee that this task needs to be proactively assigned to agencies to report to the Department of Natural Resources so it is not the DNR's burden to tease the information from the agencies.

Further, I believe this task belongs to all agencies and not just those "with jurisdiction over greenhouse gas emission sources" as stated in S 286.20(1) of the bill. I would argue strongly that agencies such as the Department of Development, the Department of Tourism, and the Department of Transportation have a role. Their policies, decisions, and spending/investment patterns can affect greenhouse gas emissions in the State of Wisconsin. They need to be assigned the tasks of (1) review of their own policies and actions and (2) finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. State government as a

whole must be pulling in one direction on this issue or we will be undercutting the efforts of one sector by another.

- Support the direct inclusion of agencies like the Department of Tourism and Department of Transportation because of their role in the travel industry. Tomorrow, the second North American Ecotourism conference will be convened by The International Ecotourism Society here in Madison. While the history of ecotourism has been more concerned with the protection and preservation of local natural treasures and economies, the industry has begun the discussion of its role in exacerbating global warming.

On Friday an extended session will be held "Climate Change and the Tourism Industry: A North American Stakeholder Meeting". As part of this, a draft document "Sustainable Transportation Guidelines for nature-based Tour Operators"¹ has been issued. This paper emphasizes tourism's contribution to global warming and ways how this impact can be reduced or mitigated. Transportation is the number one concern for my business and for the emerging ecotravel industry as they relate to global warming.

We need to plan, design and build a future state of Wisconsin with citizens and visitors in mind. There needs to be more rail access – regional, intercity and intracity. Urban public transit systems need to connect to regional and national systems. This investment in infrastructure needs to be accompanied by an equally strong commitment to Smart Growth and the implementation of land use plans. More reasons to look beyond agencies that have jurisdiction over greenhouse gas emission sources.

Many people in Wisconsin are committed to reducing global warming emissions. People here today are committed. Many of them have taken individual pledges and action to change their behavior to reduce their carbon footprint. I have made a commitment to only live where I can access public transportation. About 60 members of First Unitarian Society have pledged to increase their use of compact fluorescents, drive less, walk and bike more, eat local food, change to energy efficient appliances and install solar electric systems. Momentum exists to create the changes we need.

What we need now is the leadership to leverage this support. It will take leadership from you on this Committee, from the Governor and businesses to make our statewide goals. Let's not be complacent; let's achieve reductions so that Wisconsin's per capita CO₂ equivalent is below the national average not equal to it.

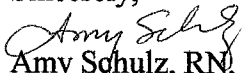
Thank you for holding this hearing and thank you for taking action to reduce Wisconsin's carbon footprint now.

¹ Stradas, Wolfgang, Stanford/Eberswalde, May 30, 2007, Sustainable Transportation Guidelines for Nature-based Tour Operators",

Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

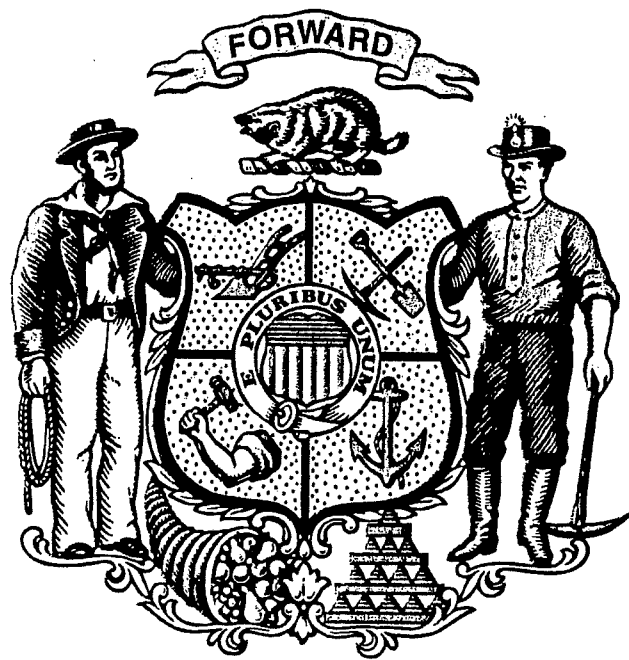
On behalf of Wisconsin Physicians for Social Responsibility, I'd like to encourage you to co-sponsor SB 81/AB157, the Safe Climate Act. As health care providers, our organization is acutely aware of the health consequences that global warming is having on the public. As we have observed, extreme weather causes deaths as direct results of the weather event and it can also contribute to deaths indirectly through ^{an} increased number of infectious diseases as was seen in Central America when Hurricane Mitch in 1998 caused soaring rates of malaria, dengue fever, and cholera. Heat stroke took the lives of tens of thousands in Europe in the summer of 2003 and in 1995, the heat wave in Chicago killed 750 people. We are seeing an increase of mosquito borne diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and encephalitis in areas that have never experienced these illnesses because of average global temperature increases. The scientific evidence is clear that the time to act on global warming is now and we need Wisconsin to be leaders in helping to reverse the direction of global warming. We urge your support of the Safe Climate Act bills in order to protect the health of our community.

Sincerely,



Amy Schulz, RN, BSN

President, Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin





Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
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**SUPPORT SB 81, the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act
Before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
By Caryl Terrell, SC-JMC Legislative Committee Chair
September 25, 2007**

America needs a new energy policy that responds to the threat of global warming by investing in smart energy solutions. A bold shift from our current over reliance on dirty fossil fuels to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future will not only curb global warming and protect the environment, it will also lower energy bills, generate new economic opportunities and create good-paying jobs. In the absence of federal leadership, Wisconsin should adopt the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act, SB 81.

Continuing climate change would be detrimental to Wisconsin's native plants and animals, causing major alterations in both our agriculture and forestry and our winter tourism economy. Climate change and the smog caused by our reliance on fossil fuels are also linked to public health risks, including an increase in the spread of disease, childhood asthma and other heat related stresses and illnesses.

It is in the best interests of the state to adopt the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act and begin working on its achievable goals for reducing global temperatures. If Wisconsin takes the lead on global warming solutions, Wisconsin will be among the leaders in reaping the economic and community benefits.

SB 81 inventories the greenhouse gases (GHG) that are causing warmer temperatures. Today the only figures we have are from a voluntary registry or extrapolation from data collected by the federal government. Both are inadequate for answering the basic questions: what is the current level of GHG emissions and where are these gases generated. Every major air pollution and energy regulatory program begins with good science and a creditable database.

SB 81 authorizes DNR to identify measures for reducing GHG no later than January 1, 2011, before the full planning and rule-making process begins. SB 81 provides for stakeholder involvement and instructs DNR to include market-based compliance mechanisms. SB 81 is the first step. The legislature will be involved in shaping and approving these plans and rules.

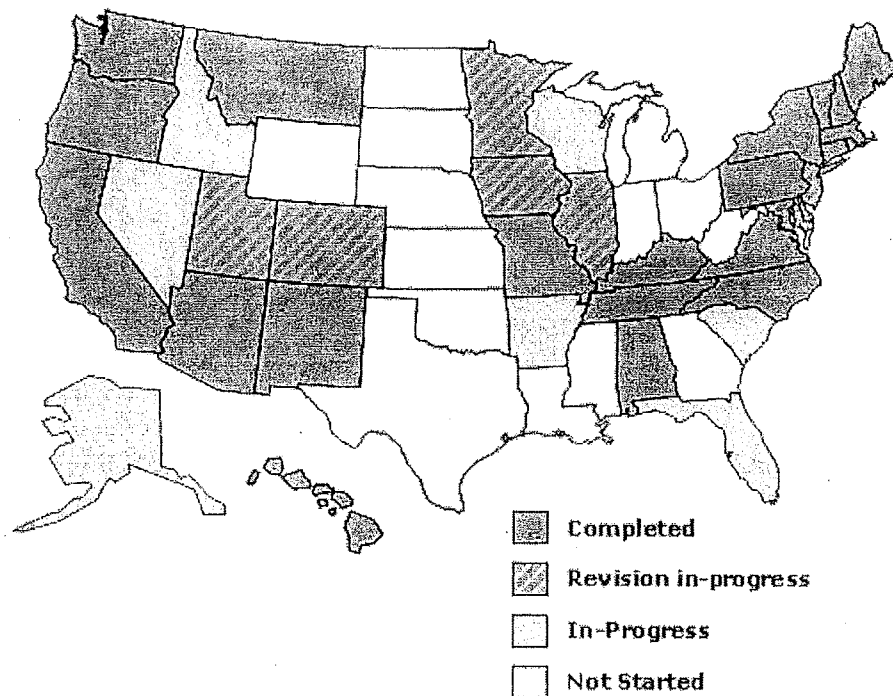
Wisconsin will not be going it alone. Other states, including our immediate neighbors, are developing climate action plans and legislative initiatives. Please see the attached and other maps by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, http://www.pewclimate.org/what_s_being_done/in_the_states/action_plan_map.cfm

The Sierra Club and the American Solar Energy Society released a visionary energy policy that puts clean and efficient energy technology to work to reduce carbon dioxide emission by 80% by 2050, <http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/cleanenergy/solutions.asp>. This very achievable 2% reduction per year is the focus of the Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Program. The Club supports legislation and administrative actions by governments at the national, state, regional multi-state and local levels. As the country's most effective grassroots organization, the Sierra Club engages its members in individual actions to reduce their ecological and GHG footprint. Our members are also active in community awareness and demonstration projects to make energy conservation and efficiency tangible to our neighbors and community leaders.

The Sierra Club is also proud to serve on the Governor's Global Warming Task Force and several of its Work Groups. We anticipate that the Task Force will provide many useful state recommendations to the Governor. The Governor's Task Force initiative is compatible with adopting SB 81.

We look forward to working with you to adopt SB 81. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

States with Climate Action Plans



See [the other maps](#)
Read examples of [climate action plan legislation](#)

These states have completed comprehensive Climate Action Plans, which detail steps that the states can take to reduce their contribution to climate change. The process of developing a climate action plan can identify cost-effective opportunities to reduce GHG emissions that are relevant to the state. The individual characteristics of each state's economy, resource base, and political structure provide different opportunities for dealing with climate change. However, without targets for emissions reductions, incentives for cleaner technologies, or other clear policies, climate action plans will not achieve real reductions in GHG emissions.

AK: Climate Action Plan in progress, due in 2008

AL: "Policy Planning to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Alabama," completed in 1997

AR: Climate Action Plan in progress, due November 2008

AZ: "Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2006

CA: "Proposed Early Actions to Mitigate Climate Change in California," completed in 2007

CO: Climate Action Plan in progress, due end of 2007

CT: "Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2005

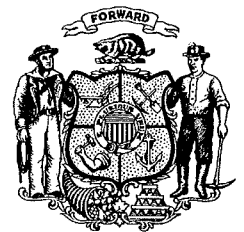
DE: "Deleware Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 2000

FL: Climate Action Plan in progress, due end of 2007

- HI:** "Hawaii Climate Change Action Plan," completed in 1998
- IA:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due January 2008
- ID:** Climate Action Plan in progress
- IL:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due July 2007
- KY:** "Climate Change Mitigation Strategies for Kentucky," completed in 1998
- MA:** "Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan," completed in 2004
- MD:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due April 2008
- ME:** "2004 Maine Climate Action Plan," completed in 2004
- MN:** "Minnesota Climate Mitigation Action Plan" in progress, due February 2008
- MO:** "Missouri Action Options for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions," completed in 2002
- MT:** Climate Action Plan completed July 2007
- NC:** Climate Action Plan completed July 2007
- NH:** "The Climate Change Challenge," completed in 2001
- NM:** "New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group Report," completed in 2006
- NJ:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due August 2007
- NV:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due May 2008
- NY:** "Recommendations to Governor Pataki for Reducing NY State Greenhouse Gas Emissions," completed in 2003
- OR:** "Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions," completed in 2007
- PA:** "Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania," completed in 2007
- RI:** "Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Action Plan," completed in 2002
- SC:** "Climate, Energy and Commerce Action Plan" in progress, due May 2008
- TN:** "Tennessee Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation Strategies," completed in 1999
- UT:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due Fall 2007
- VA:** "Virginia Energy Plan," completed in 2007
- VT:** Climate Action Plan in progress
- WA:** "Climate Action Plan," completed in 2005
- WI:** Climate Action Plan in progress, due December 2007



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



September 25, 2007, Hearing on SB 81

The Wisconsin Safe Climate Act

My name is Wayne Stroessner and I am President of WICEC (Wisconsin Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign). Our group, as the name implies, is very concerned with climate change and global warming.

Personally,

I drive a Toyota Prius (Hybrid)

My wife drives a Honda Civic Hybrid

We use an electric lawn mower powered with rechargeable batteries

We installed 7.2 kW array of photovoltaics on our rooftop and since June 1st it has produced 3,500 kWh of electrical energy and saved 5949 pounds of CO₂

I have read Senate Bill 81 and WICEC fully supports what is in the bill. However, there are some items that could be considered to improve the bill.

1. The bill emphasizes tracking down carbon dioxide emitters and it places restrictions on those who pollute, but I was unable to find regulations for those who do not conserve energy or use it inefficiently. For example: Recently I visited the Panera Bakery-Cafe in Mequon, Wisconsin. The sun was shining brightly and there were many windows to allow the sun to light up the establishment. Yet I was able to count 96 incandescent light bulbs that were turned on - all were 60 watts or more.

Because incandescent lights produce approximately 90 % heat and only 10 % light, they were heating the cafe which was already warmed by the hot sun and warm weather. At the same time, their air conditioner had to work overtime to try to cool the building. I sent a letter to the local manager and Panera's central office and suggested that they replace their inefficient light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs and also suggested that if all of their other 676 stores used the same amount of energy they would be able to save nearly \$405,600.00 annually. Their response was to continue as they were doing.

I feel that such use of energy is extremely wasteful and criminal and I would like to see something in your bill to cover such situations.

I noticed that the department and other state agencies "shall take action to reduce their greenhouse emissions" and are penalized from \$10 to \$25,000 for violations. This should also be applied to situations described above.

2. Bill 81 also suggests the use of :

Conservation;

Efficiency; and

Renewables

But it does not mention the benefits of **Distributed Energy** in which electricity can be

produced at the site of use. Electrical energy from methane from farm manure or landfill gases can be produced on site and the excess heat can also be for other purposes. Better yet, the use of fuel cells to convert the methane to electricity and heat can be done more efficiently than by conversion with an internal combustion engine. Fuel cells also produce fewer pollutants than internal combustion engines. At the same time, distributed energy production does not require more transmission lines.

The establishment of a **Hydrogen Economy** should likewise be a goal for helping to save our Earth from global warming.

WICEC is strongly against Uranium/Plutonium Nuclear Energy, but it asks that staff investigates the possibilities of **Thorium Nuclear Energy** in which Thorium is used as an alternative to Uranium and Plutonium.

THE FOLLOWING ARE POLICY GOALS TO WHICH THORIUM IS WELL SUITED:

• **PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION**

—destroying and degrading of weapons-grade plutonium.

• **PROLIFERATION**

-resistant fuels for developing nations—ensuring global security.

• **NEXT GENERATION FUEL CYCLES**

—extracting maximum energy while minimizing waste.

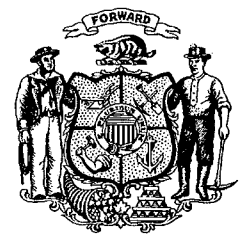
I will gladly send a list of websites for the **HYDROGEN ECONOMY** or for the **THORIUM NUCLEAR ENERGY** - most members of the Energy Committee have already received copies.

Wayne Stroessner

<wstroessner@wi.rr.com>



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

From: Steve Barney
1260 Elmwood Ave., Apt 8
Oshkosh, WI 54901-2780
Email: barnes992001@yahoo.com

Subject: Testimony for Public Hearing regarding Wisconsin "Safe Climate Act" (2007 Senate Bill 81)
To: Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Committee Members:

Exactly 2 weeks ago, on Sept 11, the City Council of my home town, the City of Oshkosh, resoundingly passed **Resolution 07-262** ([attached](#)), which directs the Mayor and City Manager to sign the **US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement** ([attached](#)). Thus Oshkosh has become the 15th city in the State of Wisconsin (see [attached](#)), altogether representing about 1/4 of the population of the state, to essentially "ratify" the Kyoto Protocol. As of last Friday, 681 US cities have signed that agreement, representing about 1/4 of the US population (see [attached](#) press release from US Conference of Mayors). All these cities have pledged to strive to reduce their Greenhouse gas emissions by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, just as the US would have been required to do, if it had ratified the Kyoto Protocol. In part, the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement states ...

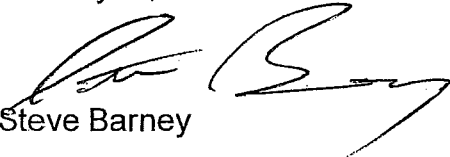
In 2005, The US Conference of Mayors, representing 1,139 US cities with a population of 30,000 or more, passed a resolution endorsing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement ([attached](#)). Their stated reasons for endorsing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, as given in their resolution, include ...

In a recent press release from Wisconsin Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton ([attached](#), along with additional [related attachments](#)), she and State Representative Gordon Hintz, of Oshkosh, thanked and congratulated the Mayor and City Council for joining the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Here's a quote:

"With a vacuum of leadership at the national level, it becomes clear that cities and states must lead the way," Lt. Governor Lawton said. "I thank and congratulate my colleagues in Oshkosh - Mayor Tower and all the members of the City Council - for making this important commitment."

Later today, I hope I can make an enthusiastic citizen statement to the Oshkosh City Council, and report that you are listening to us. Please listen to the City of Oshkosh, and the many other Wisconsin signatories to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Please vote in support of Senate Bill 81, the Safe Climate Act.

Thank you,


Steve Barney

Attachments:

- City of Oshkosh Resolution 07-262
- US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- List of Wisconsin cities that are signatories to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- US Conference of Mayors Resolution Endorsing US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- Press release from US Conference of Mayors, "600 Mayors in All 50 States and Puerto Rico Take Action to Reduce Global Warming," July 13, 2007
- Press release from Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, "Lt. Governor Lawton, Representative Hintz Congratulate Oshkosh Mayor, Council for Leadership on Climate Protection Oshkosh Becomes 15th Wisconsin City to Sign Mayors' Protection Agreement," September 13, 2007
- NLGA Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution (cited in Lt. Governor Lawton's press release)
- "Lieutenant Governors Pursue Energy Programs," *State News Magazine*, Sept 2007 (news report about NLGA Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution)
- "Not Too Hot to Handle: States Warm Up to Actions on Climate Change," By Doug Myers, *State News Magazine*, Sept 2007 (feature article related to NLGA Resolution and States action on climate change)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

07-262

RESOLUTION

(CARRIED 5-2 LOST _____ LAID OVER _____ WITHDRAWN _____)

PURPOSE: APPROVE US MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

INITIATED BY: MAYOR TOWER

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Oshkosh that the attached U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is approved and the proper City officials are authorized and directed to sign the signature page as attached.



The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
(As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that 1) includes clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.



The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Signature Page

You have my support for the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mayor's e-mail: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____

Staff Contact Title: _____

Staff Phone: _____

Staff e-mail: _____

Please add my comments in support of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. We will add these to the Website (*optional*):

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:

**The U.S. Conference of Mayors
Climate Protection Center**

By Mail:
1620 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

By Fax: (202) 429-0422

By e-mail: brosenberg@usmayors.org

For more information: (202) 861-6782



2005 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

ENVIRONMENT

ENDORISING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sealevel rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, reads: The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as: 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan. 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities; 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit; 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology; 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money; 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use; 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system; 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel; 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production; 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community; 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to track progress and implementation of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting.

[return to resolution index](#)

©2005 The U.S. Conference of Mayors
Tom Cochran, Executive Director
1620 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006
Tel. 202.293.7330 ~ Fax 202.293.2352
info@usmayors.org



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
Email: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

For Immediate Release
Date: July 13, 2007

Contact: Lina Garcia / Mayors Climate Protection Center
202.861.6735 or lgarcia@usmayors.org

600 Mayors in All 50 States and Puerto Rico Take Action to Reduce Global Warming

Washington, DC – Today, 600 U.S. Mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, an agreement where supporting mayors pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. This agreement is the only climate protection agreement of its kind among U.S. elected officials. Cedar Rapids Mayor Kay Halloran became the 600th mayor to sign the agreement.

The rapidly growing support from mayors for this agreement is significant because more than two-thirds of the American population currently live in cities. "We're proud to have the support of 600 mayors from all 50 states sign this agreement but we won't stop until every U.S. mayor has joined the fight to protect our climate," said Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. "The significant commitment by mayors to confront this global challenge is strong evidence of the growing political consensus from the local level to protect our climate now."

Conference Vice President Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz stated, "Mayors in Florida are attuned to the threats that global warming poses to cities especially coastal communities, that is why so many mayors in my state have joined the campaign to reduce global warming."

"City by city across America mayors are taking action. Isn't it time our Federal government joined the fray? Our grandchildren would appreciate it," said Conference Advisory Board Chair Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, who first launched the mayors climate agreement in 2005.

Conference Executive Director Tom Cochran added, "We left our historical 75th Annual Meeting exceeding our aggressive goal to have 500 cities sign our climate agreement. Climate protection dominated our deliberations and we confirmed that mayors are on the front lines in protecting the environment in American cities."

In early May, Conference President Palmer announced during a convening of international mayors in New York, that Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor became the 500th mayor to sign the agreement, further demonstrating the geographic support behind the agreement.

To view a list of mayors who are signatories to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, please visit usmayors.org/climateprotection.

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Barbara Lawton

Media Room

For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 13, 2007

Robert Chappell, Lt. Governor's Office, 608-261-2165 or 608-219-4371

**Lt. Governor Lawton, Representative Hintz Congratulate Oshkosh Mayor, Council for Leadership on Climate Protection
Oshkosh Becomes 15th Wisconsin City to Sign Mayors' Protection Agreement**

Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton today congratulated Oshkosh Mayor Frank Tower and the Oshkosh City Council for passing a resolution signing on to the United States Council of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

"With a vacuum of leadership at the national level, it becomes clear that cities and states must lead the way," Lt. Governor Lawton said. "I thank and congratulate my colleagues in Oshkosh - Mayor Tower and all the members of the City Council - for making this important commitment."

Oshkosh joins 667 cities, including 14 others in Wisconsin, to sign on to the agreement. The agreement, first presented in 2005, pledges mayors and city leaders to:

- * Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- * Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- * Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system

Lt. Governor Lawton led a similar effort on the national level earlier this year. In her position as vice chair of the National Lieutenant Governor's Association, she authored and introduced the NLGA Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution, which garnered bipartisan support and overwhelming passage. A copy of the resolution is available at www.ltgov.wisconsin.gov.

"America's dependence on petroleum - most of which we import from the most politically volatile regions of the world - threatens our national and economic security," Lt. Governor Lawton said. "By developing renewable energy sources, we create the potential to build our economy and create jobs for the future - not in desert oil fields or on offshore drilling rigs, but in our communities, right here in Wisconsin and around the United States. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Oshkosh to put Wisconsin in the lead."

"I'm proud of my neighbors in Oshkosh for taking the lead on this issue," said Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh). "Energy independence is one of the most vital issues we'll face in the next decade, and leaders at every level of government and the private sector will have to tackle it head-on. I'm proud that my hometown has joined the fight."

Printed: 9/24/2007



Barbara Lawton

Media Room

For Immediate Release
Friday, July 27, 2007

Robert Chappell, Lt. Governor's Office, 608-261-2165 or 608-219-4371

NLGA Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a collection of more than 600 scientists from 40 countries, reported in 2007 that the level of greenhouse gases in the world's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide are at the highest levels in more than 650,000 years; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions grew by 20% in the United States over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, more than 90% of greenhouse gas emission in the United States result from the combustion of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the U.S. to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States, with bipartisan leadership, are adopting emission reduction targets and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable fuels; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of greenhouse gases along with increases in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy will increase our energy independence from the Middle East, create new jobs *and* save American citizens and businesses millions of dollars while significantly improving our quality of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the lieutenant governors of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) shall:

- A. Encourage federal, state, and local governments to enact or promote policies and programs to meet or surpass the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 and 60-80% below 1990 levels by 2050, including efforts to: reduce the United State's dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, more fuel-efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; and
- B. Assess and review greenhouse gas emissions within their state operations. and in their

- community, and help outline and establish reductions targets; and
- C. Assist NLGA members who wish to educate the public on energy independence and methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - D. Engage schools, professional associations, businesses and industry in devising strategies to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas pollution and create new jobs through innovative energy technologies; and
 - E. Encourage development of more regional collaborations between states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the shared investment and information exchange about the next generation of renewable energy, conservation, and biofuels technologies; and
 - F. Encourage the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits, and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
 - G. Encourage mayors to participate in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and
 - H. Promote the increased use of clean, alternative energy by advocating development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production; and
 - I. Encourage the federal government to adopt higher fuel economy standards for automobiles and trucks; and
 - J. Practice and promote sustainable building practices and encourage the use of voluntary energy efficiency standards developed through an accredited standards organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives Energy Committee and Caucus, members of the United States Senate Energy Committee and Caucus, and that NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected official, and other interested parties.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton (D-WI)

Co – Sponsors:

Lt. Governor James Aiona	(R-HI)
Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll	(D-PA)
Lt. Governor John Bohlinger	(R-MT)
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown	(D-MD)
Lt. Governor John Carney	(D-DE)
Lt. Governor Diane Denish	(D-NM)
Lt. Governor Brian Dubie	(R-VT)
Senate President Beth Edmonds	(D – ME)
Lt. Governor Michael Fedele	(R-CT)
Lt. Governor John Garamendi	(D-CA)
Lt. Governor Patty Judge	(D-IA)
Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp	(R-FL)
Sec. of State Max Maxfield	(R-WY)
Lt. Governor Tim Murray	(D-MA)
Lt. Governor Brad Owen	(D-WA)
Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson	(D-KS)
Lt. Governor David Paterson	(D-NY)
Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn	(D-IL)
Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts	(D-RI)
Lt. Governor Aito Sunia	(D-A.S.)

conferencecalendar

Congratulations to the Newest Class of BILLD Fellows



Photo courtesy of Eastman Kodak Company

This year's graduates of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) are the 13th class of lawmakers to complete the intensive five-day program in Madison, Wis.

The annual event helps develop lawmakers' leadership skills through a curriculum of professional development workshops and policy seminars. The Bowhay Institute is conducted by CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Midwestern legislators are awarded BILLD fellowships through a nonpartisan, competitive selection process. Applications for next year's Bowhay Institute, which will be held Aug. 8-12, 2008, will be available in December. For more information, contact Laura A. Tomaka at 630-925-1922 or ltomaka@csg.org.

This year's class included Indiana Sen. Karen Tallian, South Dakota Sen. Sandy Jerstad, Minnesota Rep. Augustine "Willie" Dominquez, MLA Flor Marcelino of Man., Wisconsin Rep. Joan A. Ballweg, North Dakota Rep. Jasper Schneider, Kansas Rep. Mario Goico, Iowa Rep. Tami Wienceck, Minnesota Rep. Carol McFarlane, Iowa Rep. Andrew Wenthe, Nebraska Sen. Greg L. Adams, MLA Dustin Duncan of Saskatchewan, South Dakota Sen. Michael Vehle, South Dakota Sen. Tom Katus, Michigan Rep. Robert Dean, Iowa Sen. Staci Appel, Wisconsin Sen. Lena C. Taylor, North Dakota Sen. Dave Oehlke, Mike Petersen of Kansas, Illinois Rep. Deborah L. Graham, Kansas Rep. Raj Goyle, Ohio Rep. Jay P. Goyal, Wisconsin Rep. Louis J. Molepske Jr., Michigan Rep. Mark S. Meadows, Ohio Sen. Jason Wilson, MLA Andy Iwanchuck of Saskatchewan, North Dakota Rep. Patrick R. Hatlestad, Nebraska Sen. Tom Carlson, Ohio Rep. Kevin Bacon, Indiana Rep. Thomas P. Dermody, Minnesota Rep. John Berns, MPP Dave Levac of Ontario, Illinois Sen. Matt Murphy, Indiana Sen. Philip L. Boots, Michigan Rep. Kenneth B. Horn, and Nebraska Sen. Dave Pankonin. Not pictured is Illinois Sen. Kwame Raoul.

Lieutenant Governors Pursue Energy Programs



The states' seconds-in-command are pursuing programs regarding energy, health and children as they welcome new officers to lead the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA). Thirty-one lieutenant governors gathered in Williamsburg, Va., for the NLGA Annual Meeting in July.

Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton had 20 lieutenant governors co-sponsor the Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution, pledging to use their offices for the goals of reducing energy dependence and gaining cleaner air. She will work to gain federal resources to help states fund incentives to bring the private sector into active partnership on the issue, according to the Wisconsin Radio Network.

Members also passed a resolution in Support of Mentoring youth, sponsored by Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder. The

measure encourages states to set up programs, like Missouri's, which enable state employees to serve as mentors.

Members also approved a Reduction of Phosphorous in Household Dishwashing Detergents resolution. NLGA will also continue its national health campaigns: "Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime" and "Helping Americans Breathe Easier—Asthma Awareness."

NLGA Chairman Lt. Gov. John Cherry of Michigan praised the networking developed at NLGA meetings.

"The networking established at these meetings directly benefits every region of the country," he said. "Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and I have worked on Great Lakes issues, and Vermont Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie has involved more than a half-dozen lieutenant governors in aerospace issues."

The NLGA Executive Committee was selected for 2007-2008:

- North Dakota Lt. Gov. Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota, center in photo, is the new chair; Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton is the new vice chair; and Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling is treasurer.
- Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, Arkansas Lt. Gov. Bill Halter and Florida Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp were added as new members to the Executive Committee.



NOT TOO HOT TO HANDLE

States Warm Up to Actions on Climate Change

States are beginning to recognize the impacts—both environmental and economic—of global climate change. Several states have begun to take action.

By Doug Myers

The debate over global warming—more specifically, global climate change—has been settled. Scientists, the public, and even companies like Shell Oil, no longer dispute the reality of climate change, that human activity is the primary contributor or that something needs to be done about it.

As detailed in CSG's most recent report, *Trends in America: 10 Forces of Change States Can't Ignore*, federal action on global warming is mired in debate, though it is slowly gaining momentum in Congress, and weaker than many states would prefer. States, however, recognize the need to push for action and many already have taken steps to counter global warming.

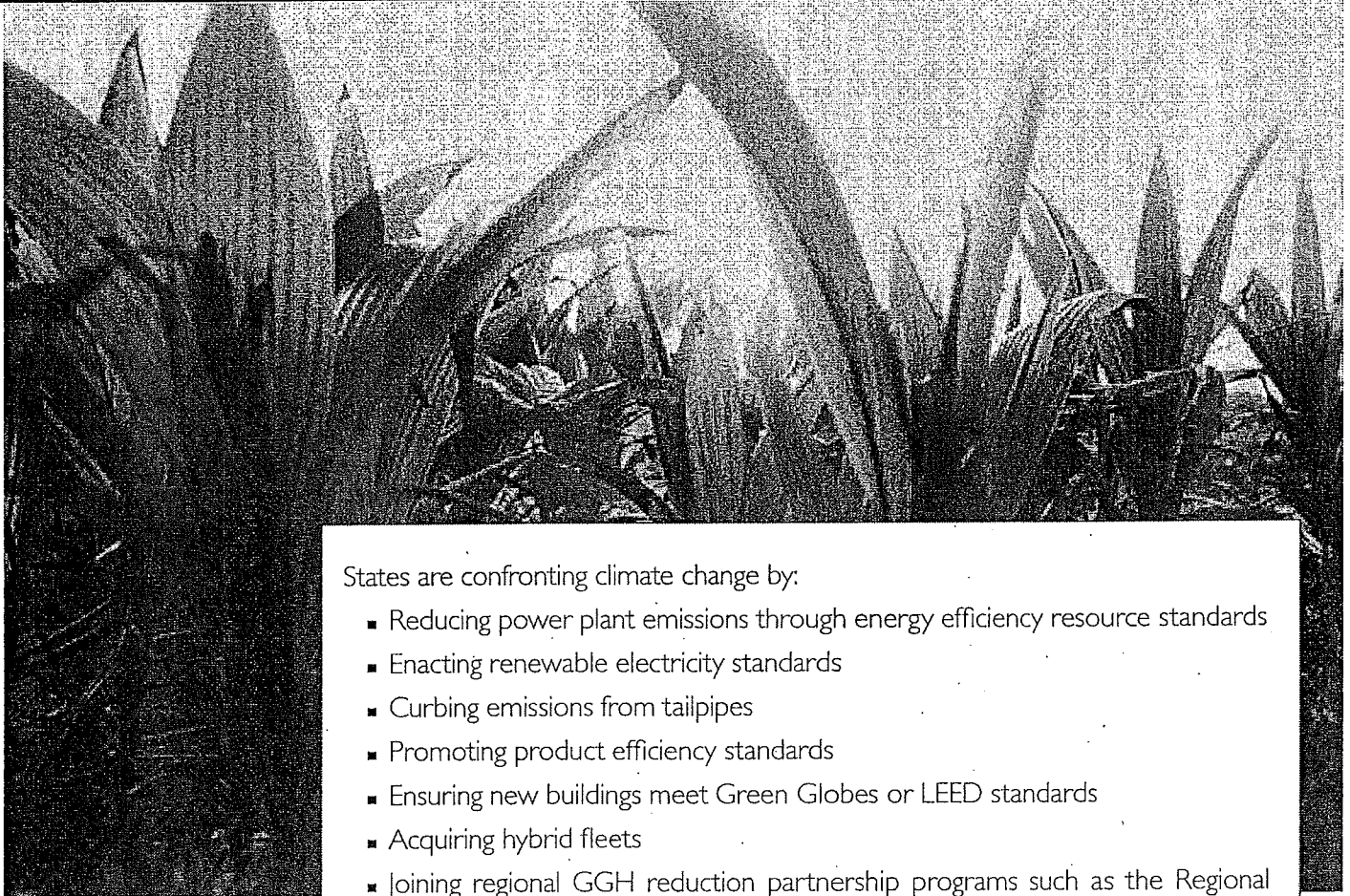
States face many challenges, but some are confronting global warming through various programs. Other states are considering how to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Attention on Many Fronts

States face economic, environmental and public health threats from global warming. As weather becomes more severe, such as prolonged droughts and heat waves, states will be exposed to myriad risks.

Heat waves are potentially deadly for the poor and elderly. According to the Illinois State Climatologist Office, "the heat wave in July 1995 in Chicago was one of the worst weather-related disasters in Illinois history, with approximately 525 deaths over a five-day period."

An unexpected or prolonged heat wave can seriously strain a state's ability to meet the public health emergency



States are confronting climate change by:

- Reducing power plant emissions through energy efficiency resource standards
- Enacting renewable electricity standards
- Curbing emissions from tailpipes
- Promoting product efficiency standards
- Ensuring new buildings meet Green Globes or LEED standards
- Acquiring hybrid fleets
- Joining regional GGH reduction partnership programs such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

caused by severe heat. It strains resources and results in an increased use of ambulances, hospitals and doctors, as well as increased costs of associated medical care. In addition, warmer temperatures also may bring the spread of mosquitoes to formerly cooler climates and thus increase the risk of malaria.

A state's economy also can face serious damage due to global warming. As mentioned in the *Trends* report, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, whose intensity most likely was increased by higher than average ocean temperatures due to global warming, wrecked the economies of New Orleans and towns around the Gulf Coast, not to mention countless lives. They resulted in estimated damages of more than \$200 billion. Global warming has other economic impacts, such as those caused by massive flooding due to a rise in the sea level along coastal towns and cities; the loss of revenue to ski resorts as a result of less snowfall; and diminished income to farmers and price hikes for consumers and dependent industries, such as cattle producers, from a loss of crops.

Other issues include saltwater intrusion into aquifers and reduced snow-pack—resulting in reduced water availability—and an increased number and intensity of forest fires, destroying homes and damaging businesses. As climate effects are regional, these impacts will be felt most at the state and local levels. In the West, drought will continue to be a problem; while along the Southeast, hurricanes will pose an ever-increasing risk.

As the first responders to events and those in direct contact with the effects of a public emergency, state and local officials will bear the brunt of global warming induced disasters. For this reason, states have seen a need to take action.

Current State Actions

States have taken a largely regional approach to the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG), realizing that greater reductions and greater efficiencies result from larger groups.

For example, the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative involves Ari-

zona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington in developing a regional target for the reduction of greenhouse gases and creating a market-based program to meet those goals. Utah is the most recent signatory to this initiative, demonstrating that as more states join the initiative, the more compelling it is for other states to join.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a similar program involving 10 northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. Its efforts focus on reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to 10 percent below the average annual emissions from 2000–2002 by 2019. RGGI initially will utilize a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gases from fossil-fired power plants.

On a local level, nearly 600 mayors have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, “mayors who sign

on to the agreement are making a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their own cities and communities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 through actions like increasing energy efficiency, reducing vehicle miles traveled, maintaining healthy urban forests, reducing sprawl and promoting use of clean, renewable energy resources.”

Mandates for Action

States also are working to reduce greenhouse gases through mandates, economic incentives or some combination of the two. The more prominent mandates include establishing renewable electricity and energy efficiency standards (i.e. requiring a certain percentage of electric power generated must come from renewable energy sources and energy efficiency savings), setting product efficiency standards similar to Energy Star and controlling tail-pipe emissions.

California, for example, has signed a law that would require automobile manufacturers to cut motor vehicle emissions by 22 percent by 2012 and 30 percent by 2016. However, this law is pending a decision by the EPA. At least 11 other states are considering adopting the legislation, and Florida has recently done so.

According to Bill Prindle of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), energy efficiency resource standards—requiring utilities to meet a certain energy efficiency savings target—are considered the lowest-cost alternative to reducing carbon dioxide and have the potential to offset about 25 percent of demand. Energy efficiency is also the one resource available in every state.

In addition, according to a recent report by ACEEE and the American Council on Renewable Energy, enacting energy efficiency resource standards allows states time to increase renewable energy production.

Incentives for Action

Economic incentives, as opposed to mandates, allow firms freedom of action in how they achieve GHG reductions. Firms choose the most cost-effective method, whether through technological innovation, increased efficiency or the purchase of credits or payment of taxes. The two principal economic incentives under consideration to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions are cap-and-trade programs and carbon taxes or carbon fees.

A cap-and-trade program limits the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions for the entire economy or a sector of the economy, typically electricity producers or fuel suppliers. Allowances equal to one unit of emissions (1 ton CO₂) are allocated or sold (auctioned off), not to exceed the limit for that sector. Producers that can maximize efficiency and reduce their emissions would be able to trade their remaining allowances for a profit to producers that generated more emissions than their allowance. This gives firms flexibility in choosing how to meet the program goals. As circumstances dictate, the cap can be adjusted—raised or lowered—to meet future GHG targets.

Carbon taxes, meanwhile, do not set an absolute limit on the amount of emissions. Rather, they are based on a price per ton of carbon emitted. Producers then have a direct economic incentive to reduce their emissions by either becoming more efficient or creating/investing in new technologies. This allows firms to retain the funds that would otherwise have been spent on CO₂ emissions.

A key component of a carbon fee or tax, as well as the proceeds from an allowance auction, is that money collected by the government can be put back into the economy to help consumers and industries adjust to the economic hardships imposed by the fee. The challenge lies in setting an appropriate price for carbon. Too low a price might encourage continued pollution, while too high a price could prove detrimental to the economy. Also essential is determining whether allowances will be auctioned off or sold.

But economic incentives may not be enough to satisfy the public's desire for action on global warming. Recent research conducted by Stanford University, the nonprofit Resources For the Future and *New Scientist* magazine suggests that despite the effectiveness of carbon fees and cap-and-trade programs, the public is more supportive of mandates. Mandates are concrete and measurable, whereas economic incentives are more abstract and not guaranteed. Thus, the public is more skeptical of their effectiveness.

Research by the Pew Center suggests that a combination of economic incentives and mandates—for instance, combining emission reductions from power plants

with energy efficiency standards—may be the most politically feasible alternative for reducing GHG emissions

Time for Action

The need for action on climate change is clear. Devising the right program, however, is not as obvious. Thus it is important for legislators to carefully weigh the pros and cons of each proposal before making a decision.

And though there are costs associated with each of the major policies described above, the cost of inaction is far higher. A proactive approach to climate change by the states also may help spur federal action by making it easier to devise a national solution.

—Doug Myers is an energy and environment policy analyst with *The Council of State Governments*.

The following Web sites offer a wealth of information related to climate change and energy:

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
<http://www.aceee.org/>

Analysis of energy efficiency policies and practices

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Examines the science and impacts of climate change

Pew Center on Global Climate Change
<http://www.pewclimate.org/>

Examines the science and impacts of climate change

Union of Concerned Scientists
<http://www.ucsusa.org/>

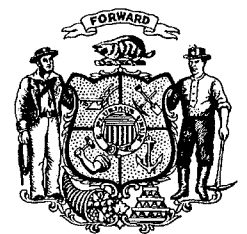
In-depth information regarding state renewable electricity standards

U.S. Green Building Council
<http://www.usgbc.org/>

All about green buildings

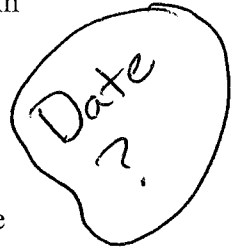


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



I am Sr. Janet Weyker, Director of the Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center and a board member of the Wisconsin Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign. I am here today to speak in support of SB 81, the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act.

As a Racine Dominican I am one of over 180 Sisters and 70 Associates that are **committed to truth** and **compelled to justice**. Voting for measures that will ensure a safer climate is a matter of **acknowledging the truth** of what human activity is doing to the climate and a matter of **acting for justice** on behalf of Earth and all who live on the planet now and into the future.



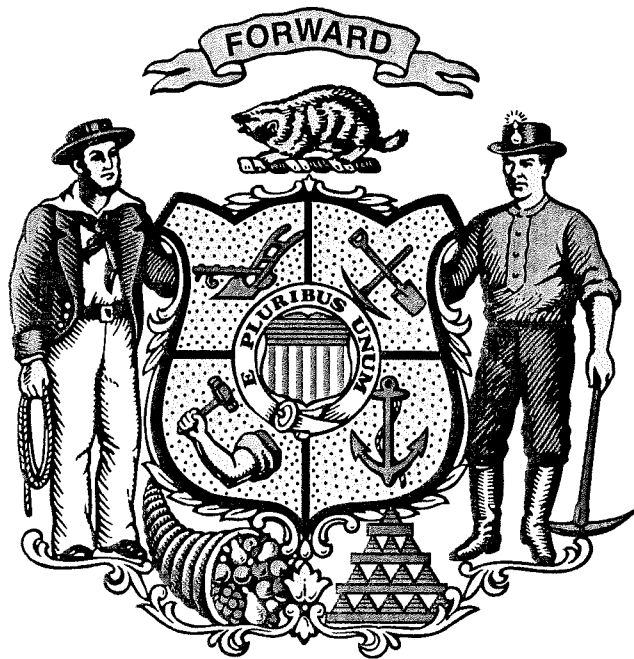
We look to you as legislators to be courageous and forward in taking leadership to provide a safe and healthy climate, not only for human generations to come, but for all species and eco-systems that are dependant on a healthy environment.

To quote Thomas Berry, a geo-logian, educator, and leader in the care of Earth, “All human institutions, professions, programs, and activities must now be judged by the extent to which they **inhibit, ignore, or foster** a mutually-enhancing human-earth relationship.” Let me repeat, “All human **institutions** (including legislatures, churches, schools) all **professions** (engineers, lawyers, economists, ministers, and teachers) all **programs** (whether financial, educational, social) and all **activities** (building, buying, developing, traveling) must now be judged by the extent to which they inhibit, ignore or **foster** a mutually-enhancing human-earth relationship.” It is not about what is good and comfortable for just **some** human beings while others are deprives of necessities for life. How will **we** of this generation be judged if we do not work for a sustainable relationship for all life systems including **a safe climate**?

I urge you to vote for the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act that will tighten regulations and reduce harmful emissions and pollutants into the atmosphere. I hope yours will **not** be the attitude of a woman I met several years ago when I attended a hearing about the Oak Creek power plant expansion. I asked her why she supported the addition of more coal burning units. Then I shared my concerns about the environment and the health problems connected with increased use of coal as an energy source. Her reply was, “Oh, baloney on the earth! My husband and I have worked hard all our lives to enjoy the conveniences we now have and want.”

I believe we have a moral obligation to protect and care for Earth. I believe we need to live responsibly so that future generations of both human and other species will have what is required for life.

Thank you.





JIM OTT

Date?

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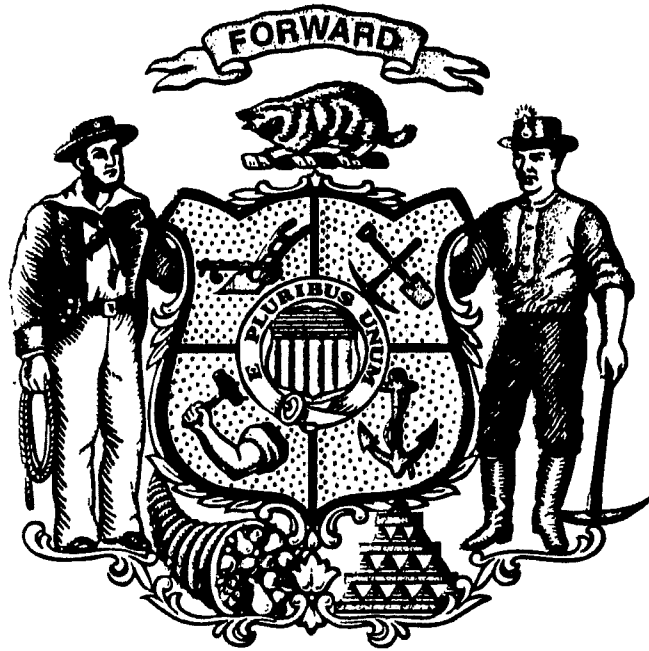
Global warming has been a much discussed issue in recent year's as rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) have corresponded with a recent rise in global temperatures. This has caused some scientists and other concerned citizens to call for action to stop the rise in CO₂. Senate Bill 81 is an effort to bring about a decrease in CO₂ emissions in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, SB 81 will have no impact on the issue of global warming, but will have a detrimental effect on our state's economy in the form of higher prices for consumers, lower wages and possibly lost jobs.

Consider the following:

- Even if we could reduce CO₂ emission in Wisconsin to zero, there would be no measurable effect on background atmospheric levels of CO₂, and therefore no impact on global temperatures. If implemented today, it is estimated that this bill would result in about a 16% reduction in CO₂ emissions in our state, even less significant.

In light of the above, please consider that:

- The bill would require that a very large and expensive bureaucracy be set up within the Department of Natural Resources.
- The bill would require manufacturing plants, electrical utilities and other businesses that emit CO₂ reduce their output by "market based compliance mechanisms. Presumably this would mean cutting production, installing expensive CO₂ capture equipment, paying a tax or buying carbon credits. Only two of the above would actually result in a decrease of CO₂ emissions.
- Forcing businesses to cut production or increase expenses will mean lost jobs and higher prices, putting Wisconsin at a disadvantage in competing with other states. A consensus of a number of economic models shows that SB 81 would cause electricity prices to rise by more than 40%, gasoline prices by about 50% and a reduction in the standard of living for Wisconsin households of \$2,000-\$5,000 per year.
- SB 81 does not mention removing the moratorium on nuclear generating plants in Wisconsin or offer any incentives for utilities to consider this option. **Doubling the amount of electricity produced by nuclear energy in Wisconsin from the current 20% to 40% of the total would result in a reduction of CO₂ emissions by more than 12 million tons per year.**
- Rising levels of atmospheric CO₂ is a global problem that will take global efforts to address. If there is to be legislation it should be at the federal level with meaningful international cooperation.
- Wisconsin has long been a leader in fighting air and water pollution and must continue to lead. However, that leadership must make sense. In this case, individual states taking measures to address a global problem will not be effective. We will only hurt our own economy while background atmospheric levels of CO₂ will not be affected.



My name is Karen Schapiro, and I am the Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, Wisconsin's only non-profit environmental law center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this urgent matter.

The climate of our world is changing. Of this there is little doubt. According to the International Panel on Climate Change, most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations. As we know, the United States is currently the greatest emitter of greenhouse gases.

While it is important to know what the long-term effects of global warming will be for our state and for the world, it is even more important to realize that we have an opportunity to avoid these consequences by making small changes now. By cutting our greenhouse gas emissions just 2% per year by 2050, we can protect our children and grandchildren from the worst effects of global warming.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2% per year is achievable and realistic. We have the technology to make this change. By eliminating waste, increasing efficiency, and investing in our own renewable energy sources, we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and keep jobs and money in Wisconsin.

We need you to pass the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act. This Act will cap greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels, and will require a gradual reduction to those levels by 2020. The Act will encourage investment in energy efficiency and the development of clean, renewable energy.

There are many that fear a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will result in economic collapse for Wisconsin. However, studies show that Wisconsin actually stands to gain economically from making these changes. Investment in clean, renewable energy will create jobs in Wisconsin. One estimate indicates that investments in clean energy will create over 2,000 jobs in Wisconsin – 960 more than would be created with current energy technology.

Other economic benefits await our investment in clean energy. Wisconsin stands to gain 31 million dollars in new property tax revenues for local communities, 22 million dollars in lease payments to farmers and rural landowners from wind power and 35 million dollars in payments to rural communities from biomass energy production. In addition, Wisconsin residents will begin to see savings and stability in their energy bills as a result of a decreased dependence on out of state, fossil fuel-fired power plants.

In addition, cleaner air will help improve the health of Wisconsin residents by reducing the incidence of problems associated with poor air quality such as asthma.

Wisconsin needs to embrace 21st century technology and 21st century ideas. California has already passed this groundbreaking legislation. Other states are considering passing similar legislation. A similar bill has been introduced at the federal level. Change is on the horizon. Peter Darbee, chairman, chief executive and president of Pacific Gas and

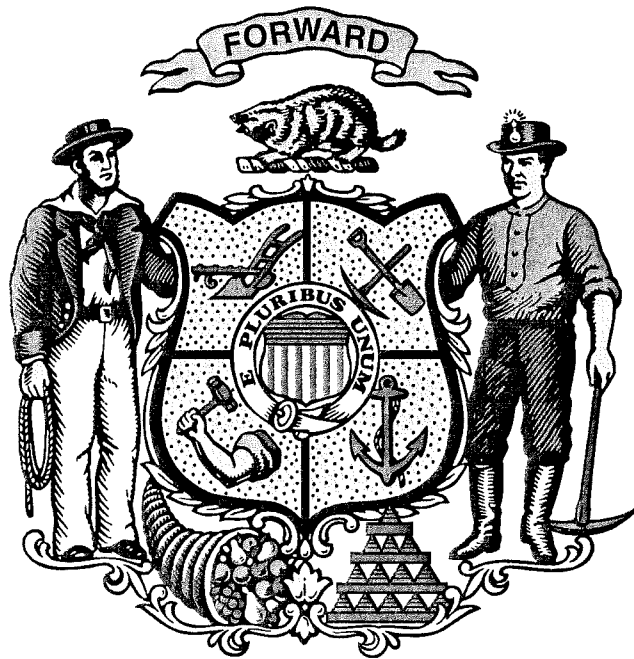
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SB 81
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Electric was recently asked why he broke ranks with his peers to support this legislation. He said:

“Rather than sitting there and denying that global warming is a problem and climate change is a problem, my reaction was to accept it and to go with the flow to understand the trend, and then say, how can I position PG&E to deal with that challenge, and then how can I turn a challenge into an opportunity.”

Wisconsin is faced with a challenge. We can bury our heads in the sand and pretend change is not coming. Or, we can turn this challenge into an opportunity while at the same time securing our children’s future. We can reap the economic benefits of change and do the right thing for future generations.



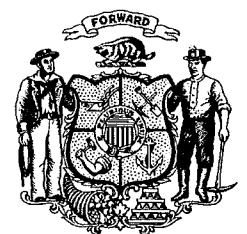
Hello, my name is Jessica Helgesen and I am currently a freshman at University of Milwaukee studying Urban Planning with an Environmental emphasis. In my lifetime, I have notice severe changes in the climate, and quality of the air. As a child and teen I lived in Green Bay Wisconsin, which contains one of the dirtiest rivers, the Fox River. They have started a clean up on that river, but what about the air I breathe? Lately the air has progressively declined in quality. Now that I am in Milwaukee, it seems worse. This of course is because the size of the city, but it does not need to be this way. With simple tactics like encouraging walking, biking, carpooling, or having easy access to public transportation, and planting more trees to deplete the CO2 we as community can prevent global warming while improving our own personal health.

Lately the polar bears have been all over the news. The ice caps are melting. It is happening, and no one can deny it. Why should we deny it here in Wisconsin, when these events will soon affect us?

Now each person can make a difference. It is said that vegetarians, by not eating meat, can decrease the CO2 max down greatly, especially when cows are one of the largest methane contributors. But I am not here to preach to the people who love meat to change to a vegetarian lifestyle, I myself do not live this life. I choose not to eat a lot of meat, because for reasons these and other ethical reasons. But the real reason I say this is that it is extremely easy to make a difference. Not eating meat for one whole day does not take a lot of effort but can make a big comeback. Now imagine not driving your car for one day- a big comeback indeed.

As politicians you have the power to change how we live in Wisconsin. Pass the Senate Bill 81 and Assembly Bill 157, shrinking the CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, and the citizens of Wisconsin will not only help stop global warming, but also help the air they breathe, and the environment they live in. You have the power to make not just a one-day effort, but also a lifetime of effort.

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Tony Uhl
Junior at UW-Madison
History and Environmental Studies Major
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Statement in Support of the Safe Climate Act

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SB 81
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Hi. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you this morning. I'm sure everyone here has been inundated with facts and statistics, therefore my portion will be a slight departure, being that I am a history major and feel a sense of dread once numbers, stats, and formulas start coming my way.

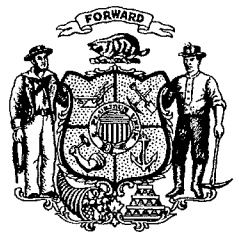
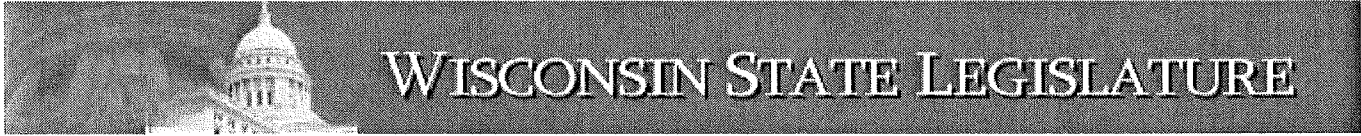
Aldo Leopold wrote, "There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot." Ask yourself, which person are you and most importantly what type do you want your great-great-great children to be? If they are raised in a state that increasingly harms its environment through continuously elevating levels of global warming pollution, will they even have an opportunity to appreciate the beauty Wisconsin has to offer, or will it be changed into something foreign, something not Wisconsin?

Aldo Leopold never directly addressed the issue of Global Warming but his desires for a natural and native Wisconsin will become a faint dream of the past if Global Warming continues unchecked. Global Warming was a soft whisper in the 1940's but it has evolved into, as I see it, the number one global issue to date, or at least of my generation. As a co-coordinator for Big Red Go Green (BRGG), the campaign focusing on Global Warming, under WISPIRG (Wisconsin Student Public Interest Research Group), we work very hard on energy reducing competitions, eco-parties, and public visibility on campus and in the community. Many of our projects focus on the student body but we are also working closely with University Administration on their WE

CONSERVE initiative to reduce energy 20% by 2010, for which we are creating a student advisory board.

WISPIRG and BRGG are taking steps everyday, following the 'Wisconsin Idea,' to create a population of students that will see the potential threats of Global Warming and act accordingly. Although we strive to have a large impact, our power to alter the current destiny of Global Warming is minimal. Use your positions of social responsibility to have that impact, to be a leader, and send a message. As a small voice representing thousands of students at UW- Madison, I implore you to pass the Safe Climate Act so that your great-great-great grandchildren can grow up in the native and natural Wisconsin, one unaffected by Global Warming, which Aldo Leopold loved with every fiber of this being.

Thank you



STOP GLOBAL WARMING



Global warming threatens Wisconsin's environment. Wisconsin must act to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. We support the Black-Miller **Wisconsin Safe Climate Act** which would require a 25% cut in greenhouse gas pollution by the year 2020. We urge the Wisconsin Legislature to promptly vote on and pass the **Safe Climate Act**.

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