

September 23, 2004

## State and Local Governments Taking Leadership on Climate Change Policy: A Briefing

Dear Colleague:

We encourage you to attend a briefing sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute discussing state and local government initiatives underway to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases at the city, state, and regional level. The briefing panel is composed of state and local government officials involved with numerous climate change policy initiatives.

**Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**2:00-3:30 PM 2318 Rayburn House Office Building**

### Briefing Panel:

**Mayor R.T. Rybak**, Mayor of Minneapolis, MN

**Peter Lehner**, Chief, Environmental Protection Bureau, New York Attorney General's Office

**Sonia Hamel**, Special Assistant, Massachusetts Office of Commonwealth Development

**West Coast Governor's Global Warming Initiative Representative - TBA**

Examples of such initiatives include a climate action plan released by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers after their annual meeting in August 2001, outlining the need for regional coordination to mitigate growing carbon emissions. The plan's long-term goal is to reduce emissions by 75-80 percent below current levels. Also, New York Governor George Pataki invited ten governors from Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States in April of 2003 to join in a joint cap-and-trade program for their power sectors dubbed the 'Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative' (RGGI). Nine states have signed on (**MA, CT, DE, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, and VT**). **Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia**, and the Eastern Canadian Provinces currently are acting as observers of the process.

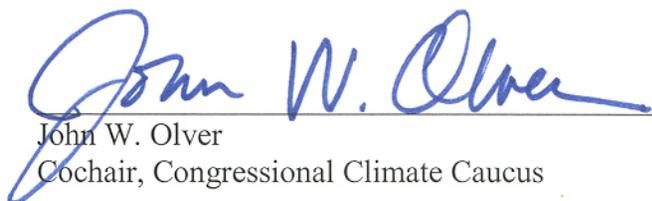
**Washington, Oregon, and California** have been acting individually and in concert to mitigate carbon emissions in their region. In September 2003 these states convened a West Coast Governors' Challenge during which all three states committed to procure more fuel efficient vehicles, reduce their use of diesel fuel in ships, create incentives for renewable energy, upgrade energy efficiency standards, and improve their greenhouse gas emissions inventories.

The briefing will cover both local government policy and legal action taken by local jurisdictions to control emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. For more information, please contact Edith Thompson (Rep. Gilchrest) at x5-5331 or Abbie Meador (Rep. Olver) at x5-5335.

Sincerely,



Wayne T. Gilchrest  
Cochair, Congressional Climate Caucus



John W. Olver  
Cochair, Congressional Climate Caucus