

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Cosponsor the Clean Smokestacks Act, H.R. 1256

April 2, 2001

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Climate Change we are writing to urge your support of H.R. 1256, the Waxman-Boehlert Clean Smokestacks Act.

With the release of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report, the evidence for climate change is stronger than ever. Largely as a result of excessive burning of fossil fuels, carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere has increased 30 percent since the start of the industrial revolution. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. In the US, fossil fuel burning power plants are the largest producers of CO₂, accounting for 40 percent of our CO₂ emissions. The US has increased its CO₂ emissions by 13 percent over the last ten years, even though we have strategies and technologies to reduce our CO₂ emissions. Regulating power plant emissions is a vital step toward reducing the amount of CO₂ produced.

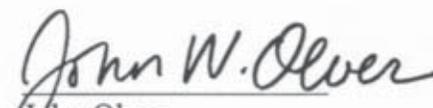
The Clean Smokestacks Act is part of a bicameral, bipartisan effort to regulate nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), mercury, and carbon dioxide (CO₂). The Waxman-Boehlert bill would require all electric generating facilities capable of producing 15 or more megawatts to cut NO_x 75 percent from 1997 levels; cut SO₂ emissions 75 percent below levels required by the Clean Air Act; cut mercury emissions 90 percent from 1999 levels; and return CO₂ to 1990 levels. Mandatory reduction of CO₂ by electric generating facilities is an essential step to reducing the economic, ecological, and human health impacts of climate change.

Regulating all four emissions simultaneously will also give the power industry more regulatory certainty, which is essential for rational business planning.

To become a **cosponsor of the Clean Smokestacks Act**, please contact Greg Dotson in the office of Congressman Waxman 5-3976 or John Mimikakis in the office of Congressman Boehlert 5-6371. For additional information or to **become a member of the climate change caucus**, please contact Abbie Meador in the office of Congressman Olver 5-5335 or Sally McGee in the office of Congressman Gilchrest 5-5311.

Sincerely,


Wayne Gilchrest
Member of Congress


John Olver
Member of Congress