



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Support the Climate Security Act

The Climate Security Act (CSA) is making history as it makes its way through the U.S. Senate, picking up new bipartisan support from Senators who previously opposed congressional action. The bill combines specific pollution reduction requirements for industry with a market-based system that encourages innovation and advances clean energy technologies, creating millions of “green collar” jobs across America. While the bill is not perfect, it is a strong starting point that urgently reverses U.S. pollution trends and provides the global leadership that can accelerate action by other nations.

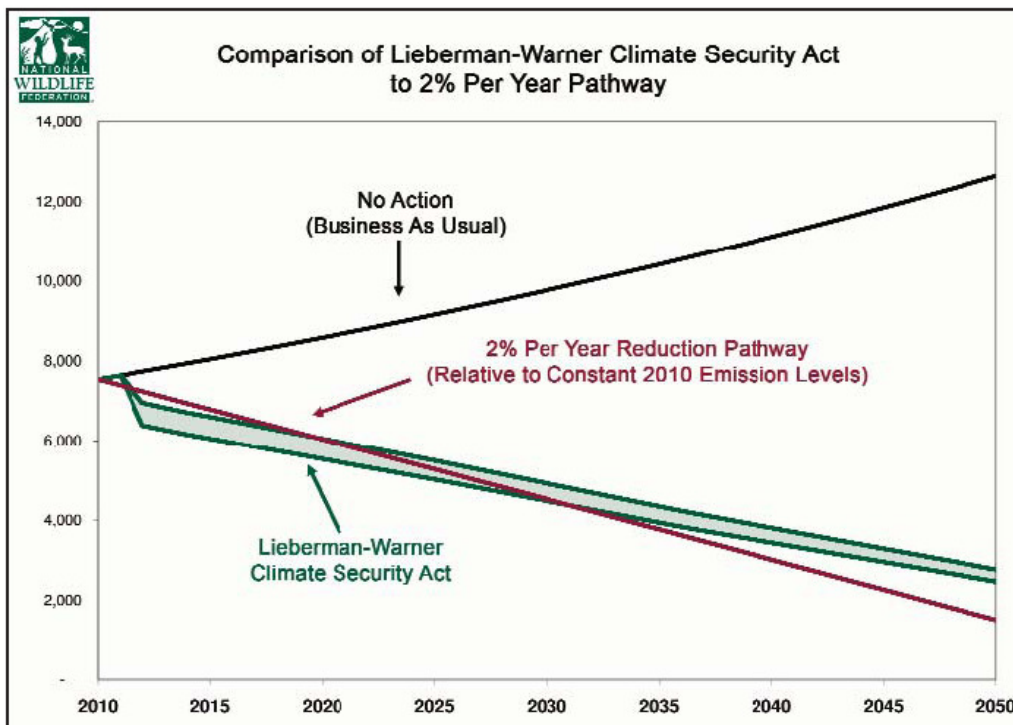
Without action, U.S. emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases are expected to climb year after year, increasing more than 30% by the year 2030. CSA would reverse that trend in the next four years and steadily reduce U.S. global warming pollution from major emitters such as power plants and oil refineries by an average of about two percent each year. Emissions from these sources will be reduced by more than 18% below current levels by 2020, and 71% below current levels by the year 2050. The bill regulates power plants, oil companies and large industrial emitters, accounting for more than 80% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Two Degrees, Two Percent

The goal of any legislation should be to put the United States on track to do our fair share of what is needed to keep average global temperature from increasing more than two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) above preindustrial levels. The U.S. emits about one-quarter of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. Why are we aiming to keep changes below two degrees? According to the latest science,

temperature increases above 2-3 degrees Celsius could put up to a third of the world’s species at risk of extinction.

If we start right now, we can do our share by reducing U.S. pollution at a steady but achievable rate of two percent per year [see NWF’s “Why 2% per year” fact sheet]. CSA promptly starts us on the path toward this goal.

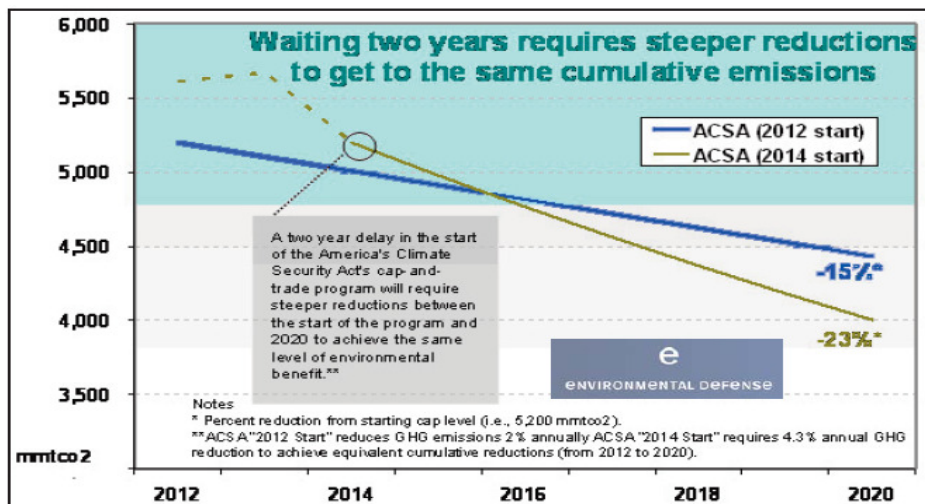


Lieberman-Warner data courtesy of WRI and NRDC

Despite putting us on the right path in the early years, CSA bill’s targets for the year 2050 fall short of the 80% cuts that are needed. The bill calls for the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to recommend adjustments in the long-term emission targets over time. The most important thing right now is to get the United States started quickly on the right emission reduction pathway.

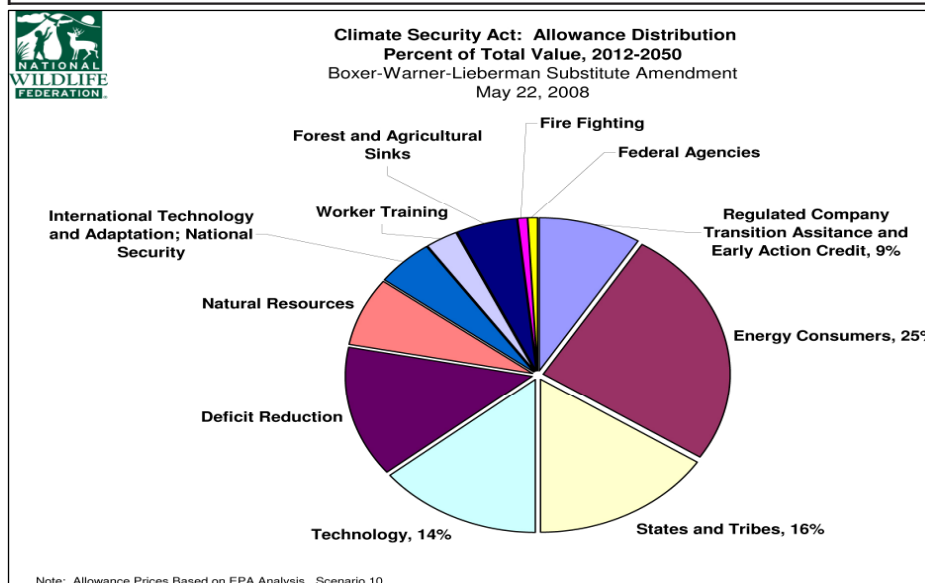
No Time for Delay

If we delay the 2012 start date by even two years, we would have to reduce emissions twice as fast – by four percent a year rather than two percent – to achieve the same pollution reductions between 2012 and 2020 that are contained in the Climate Security Act. After enacting legislation, it will take time for the regulations and monitoring systems to be established, which is why Congress needs to act now.



How the Bill Works

The bill establishes an emissions “cap-and-trade” system that creates a bold new marketplace that will encourage innovation and use of clean technologies. The cap-and-trade system, which was pioneered under the Clean Air Act, guarantees the Act’s pollution reduction goals will be met but gives industry flexibility to find the best solutions. Today, industry profits by polluting. This Act will turn clean energy solutions into the new pot of gold for American businesses, creating millions of “green collar” manufacturing jobs.



Under the Act, businesses who pollute more will pay more for tradable emission “allowances” than those who innovate and clean up. These allowances will be worth a large amount of money – perhaps as much as \$100 billion per year. The government will distribute them in a way to achieve a number of purposes under the Act.

The above chart shows how allowances are distributed cumulatively through the year 2050. Importantly, all free distribution of allowances to companies are completely phased out after a transition period, because industry should be entitled to pollute our air for free, as they do today. The bill gives polluters just 12% of the pollution allowances for free over the life of the program.

The Climate Security Includes:

- The updated bill provides \$1.7 trillion through 2050 to consumers to ensure that consumers are protected from increases in energy costs.
- Vital funding to protect America’s natural resources, fish and wildlife
- A massive investment in low pollution energy technologies in the next two decades that would be 10 times as large as current levels of energy R&D funding – and all funded by polluter payments.
- A far-reaching worker training program to provide everyone access to the new energy economy
- Protections for states that pass their own, tougher laws
- Incentives for projects to store carbon in forests and soils, projects that often enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Allocates resources to states and tribes to assist with local global warming efforts