

CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Support the American Clean Energy & Security Act

The American Clean Energy & Security (ACES) Act, H.R. 2454, is a significant step forward in America's effort to address the climate crisis. The bill creates a comprehensive energy and climate plan that combines renewable energy production and energy efficiency standards with a 'cap' or limit on the biggest sources of global warming pollution. While the bill is not perfect, it is a strong starting point that will put the U.S. on a pathway to reduce global warming pollution, position the U.S. to lead international efforts to accelerate similar action by other nations, and create millions of new clean energy jobs

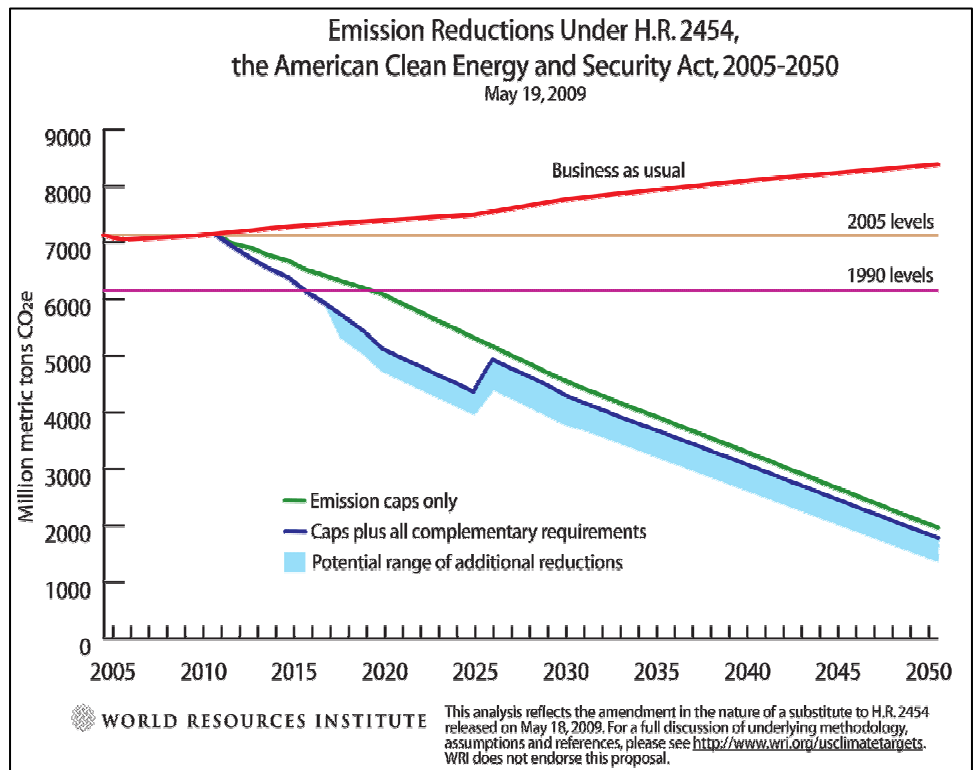
Without immediate action, U.S. emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases are expected to climb substantially in the coming years. ACES would reverse that trend in the next few years and steadily reduce U.S. global warming pollution from major emitters by an average of about two percent each year. The bill requires that emissions from these sources be reduced by more than 17% below current levels by 2020, and 83% below current levels by the year 2050. The bill regulates power plants, oil companies and large industrial emitters, sources responsible for 85% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Limit Carbon Pollution and Repower America with Clean Energy Solutions

Global warming is happening faster than predicted even several years ago, with many natural systems already seriously impacted. Overwhelming scientific evidence indicates that we must reduce the carbon pollution that causes global warming as much and as quickly as possible.

According to the latest science, temperature increases above 2 degrees Celsius will result in major and irreversible impacts to humans and the natural resources upon which we depend. Left unchecked, such a level of warming could put up to a third of the world's species at risk of extinction.

Therefore, it is essential that Congress pass legislation this year that includes sufficiently aggressive emission reduction targets and timetables.



The U.S. emits about 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. If we start right now, we can reduce our carbon pollution as much as is needed at a steady but achievable rate and reinvigorate our economy through the development and production of clean energy technologies.

Climate Solutions Are Economic Solutions

Solving the climate crisis will require innovation in every sector of society, from how we produce and use energy to how we supply drinking water and build our homes. History has repeatedly shown that setting pollution standards based on what is necessary to protect human health and safety has spurred development of previously non-existing technology and enabled us to meet or exceed these pollution standards at lower cost than originally estimated.

By putting a strong limit on carbon pollution, we will drive clean energy technology to market and create millions of U.S. jobs. Clean energy and energy efficiency companies in America already employ 3.7 million people, and we have only scratched the surface of the true potential of this industry. And when we build clean energy technologies for America, we build the capacity to export these made-in-America technologies around the world.

How the Bill Works

ACES establishes a “cap-and-trade” system that creates market-based incentives to reduce carbon pollution through the use of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. Successfully pioneered to address acid rain, the cap-and-trade system sets strict carbon pollution reduction goals while giving industries the flexibility to use the most cost-effective means to meet the goals. Under the Act, businesses that pollute more will pay more for pollution “allowances” than those who innovate and invest in clean energy technology. The scarcity in the number of allowances available, i.e., the cap, gives the allowances their value in the marketplace. ACES distributes this value – perhaps as much as \$100 billion per year – two ways. First, it directly allocates allowances to covered industries. Second, it auctions allowances and invests the proceeds in public benefits and a sustainable transition to a clean energy economy. ACES makes these investments in a manner that is clean, green and fair.

- **Investments in a Clean Energy Future:** ACES invests in clean energy technology by funding states, regional innovation centers, and the auto sector to repower, refuel and rebuild our economy. The Act will spur renewable energy development through a national renewable electricity and energy efficiency standard that requires 15% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020 and improvements in energy efficiency by 5%.
- **Investments in Conservation:** While ACES may slow the pace of global warming, we will still have to address the impacts of an already warming world. The Act provides the large-scale funding that is needed to ensure that our critical natural resources, infrastructure, and public health are safeguarded from climate change impacts.
- **Investments in Fairness for Consumers and Communities:** ACES dedicates a significant portion of the allowance value to helping consumers and communities. The Act provides allowances to the electricity and natural gas sectors that must be used to mitigate consumer energy bill increases during the transition to cleaner energy. Low income communities will receive similar assistance. Energy-intensive American industries that face strong competition abroad (such as steel, manufacturing, etc), are provided support to ensure they remain economically competitive as other countries undertake comparable carbon pollution reductions.
- **Investments for a Global Climate Treaty:** ACES takes several steps to ensure that the U.S. is positioned to meet our moral obligation as one of the largest global warming pollution emitters and to foster an international global warming agreement. The Act provides resources so that people in the least developed countries can cope with the impacts of climate change and that developing countries will have access to the clean energy technologies needed to reduce their emissions. The Act also invests in reducing carbon pollution from deforestation around the world.

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