

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has prepared three new analyses on critical aspects of The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454), which explore key consumer relief provisions in the House bill and highlight ways that the Senate can strengthen it. There are links to three papers below with a brief description of each:

- [**Senate Can Strengthen Climate Legislation By Reducing Corporate Welfare and Boosting True Consumer Relief**](#)

The House's June 26 passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act represents a milestone in climate policy, moving the nation closer to enacting legislation that combats global warming while mitigating the burden of higher energy costs on the most vulnerable households. The Senate can improve on this legislation, however, by redressing the imbalance that remains between provisions in the bill that largely favor businesses and their high-income shareholders — and effectively represent corporate welfare — and provisions that truly provide relief to typical households. The paper provides analyses of these provisions as well as recommendations for improvements.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2871>

- [**How Low-Income Consumers Fare in the House Climate Bill**](#)

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 established the critical principle that low-income households (the lowest income quintile) should be fully protected from increased economic hardship. The legislation includes mechanisms to provide direct consumer relief, on top of assistance provided to offset higher utility bills, to avoid making poor families poorer or pushing more people into poverty.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2865>

- [**Adding Funding to the House Climate Bill for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Would Help Poor Families Facing Particularly Large Increases in Energy Costs**](#)

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 includes important provisions to ensure it does not make large numbers of low-income families worse off as a result of higher energy costs. These provisions would fully offset the loss of purchasing power that low-income households as a group would face. A modest portion of low-income families who rent poorly insulated apartments (or own poorly insulated homes) or have older, less efficient appliances may face significantly higher costs than they are compensated for through the consumer relief provided under the House bill. Additional funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)) could help ease the burden on these households.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2866>