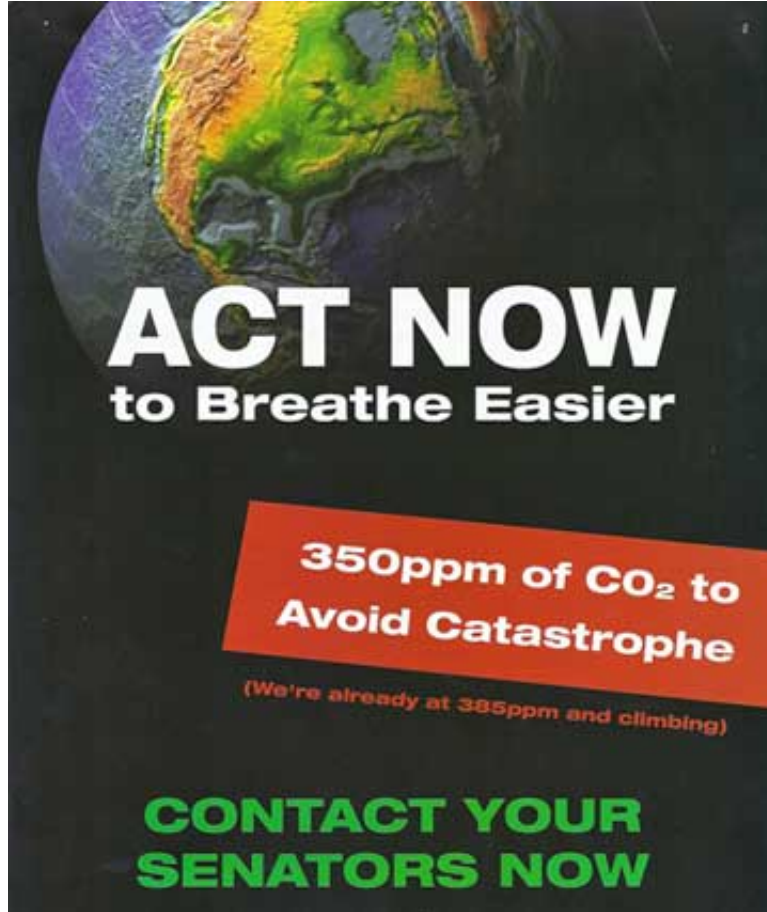




Dear MIP&L members and friends,



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PASS COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY & CLIMATE LEGISLATION

The whole nation cringes as oil continues to darken the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This disaster is a sign that our current system of fossil fuel production and consumption is wrong and needs to be changed. Senator Kerry and Senator Lieberman of CT proposed a bill called **the American Power Act** that steers our nation towards a **cleaner economy**.

The Executive Committee of MA Interfaith Power and Light supports the bill and I urge you to support it by doing one of the following:

Call or write to Sen. Scott Brown, urging him to both strengthen and support Kerry-Lieberman, (the American Power Act). He may be reached at:

317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4543
8:30 AM – 6 PM, Mon-Fri

OR

2400 JFK Federal Building,
Boston, MA 02203
Tel. (617) 565-3170
9AM- 5PM Mon-Fri.

Write a letter to the editor asking Sen. Brown to support Kerry-Lieberman; or

Circulate a petition at your house of worship in support of Kerry-Lieberman. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the petition (Excel file).

Interfaith Power & Light President, Rev. Sally Bingham, several members of the MIP&L Executive Committee and I were recently briefed on the bill's provisions by Nancy Cole, Outreach Director for Climate and Energy, and Lexi Schultz, Climate and Energy Legislative Director, both of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Here is what we learned: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is expected to decide in mid-June, what type of Energy & Climate legislation will be submitted to the full Senate. As MIP&L Executive Committee member Susan Almono and I were told when we met with an aide to Sen. Brown in May, he is **undecided** about the bill. Because he is one of 5 or more key swing senators, his views may be particularly influential.

SUMMARY OF KERRY-LIEBERMAN, AMERICAN POWER ACT

The key provision caps greenhouse gas emissions at: 17% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83% by 2050. The bill puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions by incentivizing industry to consider such emissions when making financial decisions. Companies that reduce emissions below these levels may trade allowances to companies that can't to minimize the costs to them until they can. Monies earned by the sale of such allowances would be distributed as follows:

- 50% to electricity distribution companies to offset consumer rate increases or to subsidize consumer efficiency improvements;
- 15% directly to lower-income families;
- 15% to "energy intensive manufacturers", (phasing out over time);
- 10% for deficit reduction;
- 3% for states for energy efficiency and renewable energy
- 1% for adaptation to the effects of climate change in the US; and
- .75 % for international adaptation.

Other key provisions include:

- Power plants will face the first restrictions, followed six years later by energy-intensive manufacturers;
- Transportation emissions will be regulated under the national carbon cap, though under a separate trading program;
- Most of EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions would be revoked, but its authority to regulate criteria pollutants such as nitrogen oxide would be retained;
- Regional cap & trade programs like New England's RGGI would be pre-empted, by the federal law;
- Oil drilling is expanded to certain offshore areas but states may decline to allow drilling up to 75 miles from their shores. States would have the ability to veto drilling plans of adjacent states "if they stand to suffer significant adverse impacts in the event of an accident";
- Subsidies are afforded for carbon capture and sequestration and nuclear power.

WHY SUPPORT KERRY-LIEBERMAN



Photo by Gerald Herbert/The Associated Press

Worldwide, poor and vulnerable populations are already feeling the effects of climate change, from Alaska and Greenland Natives to hurricane prone coastal communities to communities exposed to intensified droughts, heat waves and flooding. With less than 5% of the world's population the US emits more than 30% of global greenhouse gases. We have a moral obligation to lead away from addiction to fossil fuels and toward a clean energy economy.

Kerry Lieberman is also necessary for the US to achieve energy independence. The US imports more than 60% of the oil it uses, and more than 60% of global conventional oil reserves are located in the Middle East. Oil dependency is a driving factor in US foreign policy and a root cause of deadly conflict.

From a faith perspective the problems with the bill relate to what is not included. We would like to see more money spent on international adaptation and to promote conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. In a letter requesting a meeting with Sen. Brown, MIP&L President Jim Nail, the Rev. Joel Anderle, President of the Mass. Council of Churches Board of Directors, Jack Johnson, Executive Director of the MCC and I have recommended such changes. Although more money was promised to developing nations at Copenhagen, it is important to remember that Kerry-Lieberman is not the only source of money that can be made available to them.

We were advised that the one other bill in the Senate, the Cantwell-Collins Act has no support from any other Senators and is opposed by many midwestern Senators. In addition, it makes no allowance for international adaptation, the key concern of the faith community. Finally we agree with many others that it is likely that after the November elections there will be fewer Congressional votes supporting comprehensive energy and climate legislation. It is also widely believed that the chances of passing a bill after the August Congressional recess will be small.

Other key swing Senators include Sen. Judd Gregg of NH, Sens. Collins and Snow of Maine and Sen. George Lemieux of Florida. Please contact Sen. Brown and ask your friends and relatives in the above states to contact their senators to urge them to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation that:

- Puts a price on carbon that will achieve greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050;
- Provides meaningful resources to help the world's most vulnerable people adapt to the effects of climate change; and
- Prioritizes investment in conservation, energy efficiency and clean, safe and renewable energy;

The last best chance to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation is very likely passage of Kerry-Lieberman now. This is a **tremendous opportunity** for us to make a difference on this issue. Due to the oil spill, there is a reawakening as to the true cost of fossil fuels. We need to use this moment to enact desperately needed changes in our energy priorities. With a combined leadership and grassroots effort **we can**.

For more information:

On the American Power Act: <http://kerry.senate.gov/work/issues/issue/?id=7f6b4d4a-da4a-409e-a5e7-15567cc9e95c>.

On the science: NRS/National Academy of Sciences: <http://americasclimatechoices.org/>

On science & policy: Union of Concerned Scientists: http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/

US Government: <http://www.globalchange.gov/>

On Peak Oil: <http://www.postcarbon.org/>

TELL YOUR SENATOR THAT YOU OPPOSE THE MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT

The Senate is likely to vote June 10 on a measure that would dismantle the Clean Air Act as a tool for tackling global warming. This attack, sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and similar legislation introduced by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), would put public health at risk and jeopardize long-overdue action to hold the biggest polluters accountable for their global warming pollution.

The Clean Air Act is a bedrock environmental law with a 40-year track record of cutting dangerous pollution to protect public health and the environment. In 2007 the Supreme Court ruled that global warming pollutants are covered by the Clean Air Act, and last May President Obama took action under this ruling by issuing landmark clean vehicle standards that will save consumers money at the pump, cut global warming pollution and reduce America's oil dependence. The Clean Air Act will ensure that the largest power plants and factories use modern technology to reduce their global warming pollution and use cleaner energy.

Instead of standing in the way of progress, Congress should move quickly to enact the energy and climate legislation the country needs to build a clean energy economy, create jobs and protect the environment.

Please call your senators on or before June 10th and ask them to vote against the Murkowski amendment. Senator Scott Brown's phone numbers are: (202) 224-4543 or in Boston: Tel. (617) 565-3170.

For more information go to: <http://www.usclimatenetwork.org/policy/dirty-air-act-amendment>.

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L