



Union of Concerned Scientists  
Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

March 20, 2007

Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman  
Oversight and Government Reform Committee  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

On behalf of our more than 200,000 members and activists, the Union of Concerned Scientists applauds the introduction of your bill, the Safe Climate Act of 2007. **The Safe Climate Act acknowledges the magnitude and urgency of the global warming threat, and sets the firm emissions reduction targets that are needed to meet this challenge.**

The science is clear, and the stakes are high — more extreme heat and droughts, more intense storms, sea-level rise, increasing wildfires and risks to public health. It's time to put a stop to the politics of polarization and procrastination, and to restore U.S. leadership on this issue. **Your bill offers Americans a positive roadmap for how we can leave our children and grandchildren a healthy world full of opportunity.**

To avert the most severe impacts of global warming, and minimize the likelihood of irreversible consequences, such as eventual melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, we must hold global average temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

To have a good chance of staying under the 2 degree threshold, we must cut global emissions roughly in half from today's levels by mid-century. Given that the United States leads the world in both absolute and per capita emissions, we must achieve even deeper reductions here at home.

The Safe Climate Act meets this challenge by requiring the U.S. to cut its emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. We also applaud the bill's provisions to increase our reliance on clean renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, reduce heat-trapping emissions from passenger vehicles and move electric utilities towards lower-carbon generating sources are all essential to meeting this goal.

**America has the ingenuity and the cost-effective technologies we need to put ourselves on the path towards a sustainable energy future. We thank you for your leadership to ensure that we get this job done.** We stand ready to assist you in moving this crucial new legislation to victory.

Sincerely,

Kevin Knobloch  
President  
Union of Concerned Scientists