

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy's Position Statement on the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee for answering President Obama's call to craft energy policy that will jumpstart the crucial transition to a clean, green economy.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, introduced by Chairmen Henry Waxman and Edward Markey, contains a comprehensive suite of federal policies that will reduce global warming pollution, incentivize clean energy technologies, save consumers millions in energy expenses and revitalize our economy through new green-collar jobs.

SACE strongly supports the draft bill's strong renewable energy standards that can harness the Southeast's vast renewable energy potential and position our region as a leader in the transition to an efficient, clean-energy economy. The proposed efficiency standards will lay the groundwork for maximizing energy efficiency – the fastest, cheapest, cleanest way to meet America's energy needs. The bill also sets science-based, global warming reduction targets that will empower the United States and the Obama administration to fully participate in international climate negotiations later this year in Copenhagen.

We are hopeful that the discussion draft will expand to address what we believe to be the most critical aspect of a cap-and-trade program - how best to allocate the program's carbon credits. SACE unequivocally supports President Obama's proposal, as included in his budget outline, that 100% of the credits should be auctioned. In fact, doing so is the only way to ensure the revenues can be used to help transition to a clean energy economy while still protecting consumers and we would urge the committee to continue to strengthen the bill with this vital component.

The Waxman-Markey discussion draft is a positive first step in enacting the energy policies this country needs to lessen its dependence on foreign energy sources and transition to a clean energy future. We look forward to working with our allies in Congress, including Representatives Waxman and Markey, to strengthen it in the coming months to help pass a strong bill that empowers America with clean energy, helps rebuild our economy, and reduces our ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

The full text of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 discussion draft is available at: http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090331/acesa_discussiondraft.pdf
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090331/acesa_discussiondraft.pdf>

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible energy choices that create global warming solutions and ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.

For more information, go to: www.cleanenergy.org