

## House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has supported mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions with specific target dates for achieving them. Pelosi spokeswoman Jennifer Crider recently said, "It's an issue that the speaker thinks is critical to address." Speaker Pelosi has said she wants a climate legislative package on the floor by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Speaker Pelosi has created a special committee on climate change to recommend legislation for cutting greenhouse gases. It is called the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. She has tapped Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) to head the panel. Pelosi sees this as a high profile, attention-getting committee that will put pressure on the Energy and Commerce Committee to move on climate change.

Though the committee has no legislative authority, its formation has been opposed by several senior Democratic House members, who argue that it would duplicate and even complicate ongoing efforts to explore the same subjects, and curtail the power of committee chairmen who have decades of expertise in their areas.

Rep. Dingell (D-MI), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the longest-serving member of the House, greeted the news of the new committee with anger. He told the *Associated Press* that the new committee would serve as little more than an excuse for members of Congress to take exotic trips.

Rep. Waxman (D-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said that Pelosi discussed the idea of a special committee with him. He, too, is a skeptic. Rep. Waxman said, "I believe the existing committees can deal effectively with global warming ... But, I can also understand why the speaker believes it's important to highlight this issue."

Democratic officials have said the committee would be responsible for advising the best legislative approaches while the actual bill-writing duties would likely still be done by Chairman Dingell's Energy & Commerce Committee and Chairman Charlie Rangel's (D-NY) Ways and Means Committee.

At this point Pelosi, Dingell and Waxman are negotiating an agreement. Pelosi does not want to do an end run around Dingell, and Dingell does not want to embarrass Pelosi.

**The committee, which has a two-year lifetime, gives freshmen members a chance to be involved, and helps create champions for addressing climate change. Trips the special committee could make include ones to China, India, and the Arctic.**

**It is worth noting that Chairman Dingell is also serious about addressing climate change. On January 19, Chairman Dingell sent a memo to his committee members announcing plans for hearings on climate change, laying out nine issue areas to consider, and he has invited former vice president *Al Gore* to testify on climate change.**

### **Barbara Boxer (D-CA)**

**Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW). With respect to the Administrations' approach to climate change, after the State of the Union speech by President Bush, Chairman Boxer said, "The President is taking baby steps to deal with a giant problem. I urge the President to listen to all of the voices that are coming before the EPW committee to confront this challenge, not just pay lip service to it."**

**Chairman Boxer's first action as EPW chair was to set up six subcommittees, two of which deal specifically with climate change. These two committees are:**

- Public Sector Solutions to Global Warming, Oversight, and Children's Health Protection -- Chaired by Barbara Boxer (CA)**
- Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection -- Chaired by Joe Lieberman (CT)**

**Chairman Boxer is holding an "open forum" hearing on global warming on January 30, the first of several hearings expected on the issue in the committee this year. Boxer said the global warming forum will be "fairly unprecedented." She has invited any Senator to speak for up to 10 minutes on the topic.**

**The purpose of the hearing is to hear from each Senator about his or her views on global warming, and what the Senator believes the nation's response should be to the issue. Chairman Boxer said, "My goal is to take the pulse of my colleagues.... Whatever they have to say they can say.... I believe there are some very good ideas out there." Boxer wants to introduce a plan this Congress to mandate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming.**

**On January 16 Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and Chairman Boxer introduced the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act (S. 309). The Act requires that the United States reduce its emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. By**

**2030, the United States must reduce its emissions by 1/3 of 80 percent below 1990 levels; by 2040, emissions must be reduced by 2/3 of 80 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050, emissions must be reduced to a level that is 80 percent below 1990 levels.**

**Chairman Boxer said, "This is the gold standard bill, as originally laid out by Senator Jim Jeffords, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor of it."**

**Chairman Boxer has a number of hearings on climate change planned for the EPW committee in the near term, including: the IPCC Fourth Assessment, Business actions, wildlife impacts, and state and local actions.**

### **Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act Introduced**

**On January 12, Sen. Lieberman (I-CT), with cosponsors McCain (R-AZ), Lincoln (D-AR), Snowe (R-ME), Obama (D-IL) and Collins (R-ME) introduced the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act of 2007 (S. 280). The Act caps the greenhouse-gas emissions of the electric power, industrial, transportation, and commercial sectors of the economy at year 2004 levels by 2012. It then lowers that cap gradually, such that it reaches 1/3 of year 2004 levels by 2050.**

**According to a fact sheet describing the legislation, the Act controls compliance costs by allowing companies to trade, save, and borrow emissions credits, and by allowing them to generate credits when they induce non-covered businesses, farms, and others to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions or capture and store greenhouse gases.**

**The Act invests set-aside emissions credits and money raised by the auction of such allowances in: deploying advanced technologies and practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; protecting low- and middle-income Americans from higher energy costs; keeping good jobs in the United States; and mitigating the negative impacts of any unavoidable global warming on low- and middle-income Americans, low-income populations abroad, and wildlife.**

**It will be hard to move this bill without Chairman Boxer's support. Sen. Lieberman will have to negotiate with Chairman Boxer for an acceptable vehicle.**

**On January 22, Rep. Olver (D-MA) and Gilchrest (R-MD) introduced their companion bill, the Climate Stewardship Act of 2007 (HR 620). The bill is based on the Climate Stewardship Acts introduced in previous Congresses, but is updated to include a long-term declining cap to 2050.**