

WORC

Western Organization of Resource Councils

The American Clean Energy and Security Act, or H.R. 2454, passed the U.S. House of Representatives June 26, 2009. K.C. Duerig, WORC Chair, issued the following statement on behalf of WORC.

“Our work on climate change legislation has just begun. The climate change bill passed by the House of Representatives is a step forward, but we have our work cut out in the Senate to create a bill that addresses our concerns.

“Within the more than 1,200 pages of the climate bill, investments in energy efficiency measures and the cap on carbon dioxide stand out as highlights. The legislation, however, does not address the negative impacts of energy development in this country and relies too heavily on coal and nuclear energy, and untested carbon sequestration technology.

“WORC looks forward to working with the Senate to help improve this bill in a number of key places including:

- Providing better protection for split estate landowners. An amendment to the Senate Energy bill, sponsored by Senator Mark Udall (D-CO), would notify landowners before the minerals beneath their land are leased and require negotiated surface agreements and fair compensation for landowner damages.
- Strengthening the bill’s Renewable Electricity and Energy Efficiency Standards to better than business as usual, as the bill currently stands, that will create more jobs.
- Removing some of the record subsidies the bill provides for coal and nuclear generation, and carbon capture and sequestration.

“Landowners and communities, particularly in the West, are living with degraded air quality and contamination of water resources as a result of booming oil, gas and coal development. While the American Clean Energy and Security Act was the first bill addressing climate change to be passed through either the House or the Senate, we have a long way to go before this bill adequately addresses issues around climate change and energy production.”