

# WORC

## *Western Organization of Resource Councils*

Senators John Kerry and Barbara Boxer introduced a bill dealing with global climate change, the *Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act*, on September 30. The Western Organization of Resource Council's (WORC) Chair, K.C. Duerig of King Hill, Idaho, issued the following statement on behalf of WORC:

We commend Senators Kerry and Boxer on their commitment to addressing the critical problem of global climate change. Although the bill makes a number of key improvements when compared to the bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, we believe it does not do enough to transition to a clean and renewable energy economy, and would lock in use of coal and other dirty fossil fuels.

Areas of particular concern include:

- **Taxpayer money for coal and other fossil fuels:** Far too much money under the bill would subsidize the unproven technology of carbon capture and sequestration for new coal plants. Every dollar invested in such speculative technologies is a dollar that cannot be spent on energy efficiency or renewable energy production, whose effectiveness at reducing pollution and providing jobs and clean energy is well established.
- **Ignoring the full carbon footprint of coal:** The bill does not adequately address coal's full lifecycle carbon emissions, including mining, transport, and burning, especially in the context of the massive subsidies for carbon capture and sequestration. If all of the emissions associated with electricity generation from coal are not considered, there would be no guarantee of significant, sufficient reductions in greenhouse gas pollution, even if carbon capture and sequestration could be implemented on a large scale.
- **New Commodities Trading Market:** Equally as disturbing as the incentives for fossil fuels is the creation of an essentially unregulated Wall Street style trading market for carbon allowances.
- **Offsets:** Any offsets should be real, verifiable, permanent, and enforceable. Additionally, use of international offsets should be minimized and, as proposed, would do nothing to support U.S. farmers and ranchers.

It's important that Congress gets it right when acting on climate change. Congress should pass a clean energy bill with a federal renewable energy standard of at least 25% by 2025 and with increased incentives for energy efficiency. By doing so, Congress would firmly establish the United States as a leader in a clean energy economy. In the meantime, the Environmental Protection Agency should move forward with greenhouse gas regulations.

*WORC is a network of grassroots organizations from seven states that includes 10,000 members and 45 local community chapters.*