

Support for the Climate Stewardship Act (S. 139)

Compiled by Jeremy Symons, National Wildlife Federation

Public Opinion

Gallup 4/21/03 Poll: 75% of Americans favor “imposing mandatory controls on carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases.”

Editorial Samples

Chicago Tribune: The Climate Stewardship Act “makes sense because it calls for mandatory reductions, but provides flexibility in how those reductions are reached.” (Editorial, 1/26/03)

New York Times: “The bill provides an economywide approach to cutting emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, that threaten to disrupt the earth's climate in environmentally destructive ways... The McCain-Lieberman initiative is a good place to start.” (Editorial, 1/14/03)

Economist: “Under the plan, emissions from various sectors of the economy would need to decline to their 2000 levels by 2010, and further still by 2016. Market-friendly tactics such as emissions trading would be encouraged in order to get there. The administration is already saying it will not budge. That is a pity, for many of Mr. Bush's business allies would probably support the plan's approach.” (Editorial, 1/16/03)

Nature: “A modest target for the stabilization and subsequent reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions....The central points of [the Act] would be regarded by many as a perfectly reasonable set of precautions against the likely dangers of global climate change.” The Act’s “time will surely come.” (Editorial, 1/16/03)

Daytona Beach News Journal: “The bill would be a double-barreled counter-attack on the administration's erosion of pollution standards, which began in 2001 with Bush's decision not to crimp power plants' carbon dioxide emissions.” (Editorial, 1/10/03)

Los Angeles Times: “Global warming is causing problems and they aren't going away. S 139 strikes a middle ground....” (Editorial, 2/1/03)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “The cap-and-trade model has worked well in the acid rain program established by the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act. There is every reason to believe that it will work just as well with greenhouse gas emissions.” (Editorial, 1/7/03)

Hartford Courant: “As the world's leading industrial nation, the United States has a responsibility to curb dangerous emissions that affect the entire world. America should be

a leader, not a laggard, in combating global warming. A good step would be to adopt the legislation sponsored by Sens. Lieberman and McCain.” (Editorial)

Washington Post: “Technological breakthroughs will happen only if the economic environment encourages them -- and this bill intends to create such an environment.” (Editorial, 1/6/03)

San Antonio Express-News: “Fortunately, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., take the warnings about warming seriously. They have introduced legislation that would require all U.S. power plants and industries to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.” (Editorial, 1/12/03)

Statements by Companies, Farmers, and Environmentalists

National Farmers Union – “On behalf of the 300,000 family farmer and rancher members of the National Farmers Union (NFU), I write to commend you on the development of the Lieberman-McCain Climate Stewardship Act.... Your legislation would also make sure that the United States would fulfill its historical leadership role as the predominant standard-bearer of environmental quality standards worldwide.” (Letter to Sen. Lieberman, 1/22/03).

Alcoa: “We recognize and support the broad scope of this legislation.... We believe a cap and trade system will provide the incentives and rewards necessary for all parties to initiate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.” (Senate testimony, 1/8/03)

Republicans for Environmental Protection: “We believe that the conservative course of action is to consider the well-being of future generations and to take prudent measures now to reduce global warming risks. Your legislation would do exactly that.” (Letter to Senator McCain, 1/16/03)

Resources for the Future: “...we view the architecture of the emissions trading program in this bi-partisan bill to be a significant step forward. The broad coverage and flexibility of the trading program make this bill one of the most cost-effective domestic proposals to date.” (Report, 1/28/03)

DuPont: “We believe, on the basis of our discussions to date, that the market-based, economy wide nature of [Senators McCain and Lieberman’s] approach is fundamentally sound.” (Statement, 1/8/03)

Environmental Defense: “Environmental Defense believes that the McCain-Lieberman bill embodies America's core commitment to responsible environmental stewardship... For those of us who support meaningful action to combat climate change, the draft bill represents a significant breakthrough.” (Senate Testimony, 1/8/03).

Pew Center on Global Climate Change: “I believe the Climate Stewardship Act of 2003 represents an important milestone in the effort to ensure that the United States does its

part to address global climate change. Its enactment would establish a comprehensive national framework that would put the United States on a path toward significant long-term emissions reduction." (Senate Testimony, 1/8/03).

National Environmental Trust: "We applaud the leadership of Senators McCain and Lieberman for this realistic approach." (Statement, 1/8/03)

National Wildlife Federation: "This effort to solve global warming puts to rest all the excuses for doing nothing. This bill is bipartisan, it achieves environmental goals by encouraging innovation and American ingenuity, and its flexible approach is supported by industry." (Statement, 1/8/03)

Natural Resources Defense Council: "Sponsors of these bills deserve great credit for genuinely tackling global warming." (Statement, 1/8/03).

Union of Concerned Scientists: "While no single measure can serve as a silver bullet solution to the problem of global warming, the legislation introduced by Senators McCain and Lieberman is a good first step. Enactment of this bill, in concert with other policy solutions such as improved fuel economy standards for cars and trucks and the increased use of renewable electricity sources, would tap American technological ability to restore the United States as a leader in the fight to avert the worst consequences of global warming." (Statement, 1/8/03).

World Wildlife Fund: "While WWF will continue to pay close attention to the details, this bill could start the US on a downward CO2 emissions trend in time to avoid devastating impacts on the world's biodiversity."