

# HEARING ON: "ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF EPA GREENHOUSE GAS REGULATIONS ON SMALL BUSINESS"

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 7, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit my opening statement given at the hearing.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this important hearing. Today, we are here to discuss the impact of greenhouse gas regulations on small businesses. America's small businesses are the lifeblood of this country's economy. Competition, innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit have driven America's prosperity, and it is our job in Congress to ensure that we facilitate and promote an environment of economic opportunity. It is also our job to protect the well being of America's citizens, with the bottom line of providing the highest quality of life possible for each and every person.

Based on actual results, and future projections, it is clear that the Clean Air Act strikes a balance between economic growth and keeping each and every one of us healthy. By 2020, for every taxpayer dollar invested in the Clean Air Act, there will be an estimated 30 dollar return in benefits. In the year 2010 alone, the Clean Air Act prevented over 160,000 deaths, over three million lost school days and 13 million days of lost work. These numbers are illustrative of the benefits to both businesses and public health facilitated by the Clean Air Act.

The regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act is imperative to protecting public health and welfare. The threat posed by climate change is based on peer-reviewed, accurate, and concrete science—the threat is real, and preventative steps are necessary. The EPA's regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act is a measured, commonsense approach to mitigating climate change that protects not only public health and welfare, but business as well.

Opponents of greenhouse gas regulation claim that small entities will be overly burdened by costly and unattainable emissions standards. However, the EPA's implementation of the "Tailoring Rule" is a small business-conscious method of protecting public health, and this country's employers and employees. The tailoring rule, by setting a high greenhouse gas emission threshold, exempts 95 percent of all stationary sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Essentially, the tailoring rule lifts a regulatory burden off of small businesses.

In written testimony provided for today's hearing, the Small Business Majority, a representative of US small businesses, states that:

"Some will claim that a variety of small businesses—everything from bookstores to diners and plumbers—would be impacted by the greenhouse gas standards. This simply isn't the case."

Further, as described in the Small Business Majority's testimony, a significant number of small business owners welcome measures to reduce environmental pollution; this sentiment cannot simply be ignored.

As I have said at this subcommittee's past two meetings, we cannot have a productive discussion about the impacts of regulations without considering both costs and benefits. For example, when we talk about the new tailpipe emissions standards we cannot simply discuss a potential increase in the sticker price of a vehicle.

The proposed standards for heavy and medium duty trucks—despite a marginal in-

crease in sticker price—are projected to save over \$74,000 over the life of the truck, and save over 500 million barrels of oil. Multiply that times all the trucks on the road, and the reduced fuel consumption and reduced greenhouse gas pollutant emissions can help us achieve energy independence while improving our public health.

I look forward to having a well rounded discussion about greenhouse gas emission standards, their costs and their benefits, with today's witnesses.

## ENERGY TAX PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 910) to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, the bill before us today is bad for America's health and reduces progress in our nation's energy independence. I oppose this 'dirty air act' that would eliminate the ability of the EPA to address the very serious public health threats from carbon pollution.

The Clean Air Act requires that if the EPA finds carbon pollution to be detrimental to our health, then the EPA must regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Despite the U.S. Supreme Court upholding this authority, today's legislation would exempt our nation's largest polluters from regulation, eliminate public health protections, and push back efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources. By preventing the EPA from setting carbon pollution national automobile standards, this bill does nothing to reduce consumption and reliance on foreign oil.

The EPA helps protect our nation's most vulnerable—including children, seniors and those suffering from respiratory ailments—by guaranteeing the air we breathe is safe and healthy. Dirty air has been linked to an increase in asthma rates, especially among young people, an increase in emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and an increase in heart attacks and strokes. In New York, pediatric asthma affects an estimated half million children and an additional estimated 1.5 million adults 18 and over have asthma, based on 2009 rates.

All across the country, Americans overwhelmingly support EPA protections for the air we breathe and the water we drink. Supporting this bill disregards science, ignores public health concerns, and does nothing to curb carbon emissions. I urge a no vote.

## ENERGY TAX PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 910) to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, over forty years after the passage of the Clean Air Act, there are apparently still Members of this House who think you can't have jobs unless you have a polluted environment. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Over the past 40 years, the Clean Air Act has reduced smog-producing sulfur dioxide and particulate pollution by 60% while our economy has nearly tripled. Since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, electricity production has increased and prices have remained stable. A rigorous, peer-reviewed analysis of the Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990–2020 conducted by the EPA found that air quality improvements under the Clean Air Act will save \$2 trillion and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually.

The record is clear: a healthy environment and a strong economy are not mutually exclusive. They go hand in hand. Which is why this attempt to gut the Clean Air Act by preventing EPA from regulating carbon pollution is so misplaced. Given our 40-year history with the Clean Air Act, the last thing Americans want is a bunch of politicians substituting their own ideological agenda for sound science and telling EPA it can't do its job.

I urge a no vote.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 7, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the hard work and determination that Habitat for Humanity has provided for a deserving family in my district. Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park purchased a three-bedroom townhouse in Manassas using funds from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The organizations began extensive renovations on the townhouse on October 9, 2010.

The deserving recipient is a single mother who offers support and care for her disabled mother, along with working full-time and caring for her son. With the high cost of living in northern Virginia, the mother believed that she would never be able to purchase a home. She learned about the Habitat for Humanity home ownership program and applied in November 2009. After 1,100 hours of volunteer labor by nearly 100 volunteers, the house was dedicated on April 2 to the woman and her family.

The family will purchase the home from Habitat at cost and finally be able to have a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Habitat for Humanity for its continuing work to help make the American dream of home ownership come true and salute its volunteers and donors for their hard work. This deserving family looks forward to living in a safe and pleasant community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHABAD OF PORT WASHINGTON

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 7, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chabad of Port Washington for 20 years of exceptional spiritual leadership and community service. For countless families and individuals in the Port Washington community, the Chabad has been an anchor of welcoming faith—a constant source of spiritual support for anyone who seeks it.

An “unorthodox Orthodox Synagogue,” the Chabad of Port Washington’s membership is a conglomeration of Jews from a wide array of ages, backgrounds, and levels of observance. This diverse membership creates a welcoming atmosphere rich in culture and accessible to every corner of the Jewish community. The Chabad’s unrivaled religious and educational experiences provide a forum for individuals of disparate backgrounds to come together as a single, unified congregation.

The Chabad’s mission focuses on bringing to life traditional Jewish values to promote spiritual growth in a way that is both enjoyable and easy to understand. It is dedicated to promoting wisdom, comprehension, and knowledge of Judaism to both the membership and the broader community. The Chabad provides not only classes focused on a deep and comprehensive understanding of the Torah, but educational opportunities for young Jews experiencing their first exposure to the joys of Hebrew School. This approach to education allows the Chabad to reach out to a broad swath of Jews and create the best opportunities for spiritual growth.

Tonight, the Chabad celebrates its 20 years of good works and pays special tribute to some of the individuals who have made it possible. Adam Katz, the President of the Chabad’s board of directors, will have a new athletic center dedicated in his honor. The celebration also will recognize John Maura, Jr. with the Community Service Award; Chaim (Bryan) Sherman and Dr. Orly Calderon-Sherman with the Community Builders Award; and Alan Schoenfeld with the Chesed Award. Without the contributions of these extraordinary individuals, as well as many others, the exceptional achievements of the Chabad would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, since 1991, the Chabad of Port Washington has been working tirelessly to educate, enlighten, and support its local community. I am proud to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of the Chabad and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanks and gratitude for its two decades of tremendous work supporting the community and promoting Jewish faith.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT  
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF  
KAZAKHSTAN ON HIS RECENT  
RE-ELECTION

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 7, 2011*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev on his re-election as President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan welcomed more than 1,059 domestic and international observers to monitor the conduct of the electoral process for purposes of making sure that the election was free and fair and open and transparent. These observers included an OSCE Election Observation Mission (EOM), 400 short-term observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as independent observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and other international and non-profit organizations. Some 90 foreign media representatives were also temporarily accredited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan to cover the election.

Although the election was not without criticism, the OSCE stated that “compared to the last presidential election, the media provided more equality in covering candidates in the news programmes,” and suggestions made by ODIHR and the OSCE observer mission regarding ways to further improve the electoral process were well taken by Astana.

On April 4, 2011, the U.S. Embassy in Astana was among the first to congratulate President Nazarbayev on his April 3, 2011 re-election, acknowledging Kazakhstan’s commitment to further liberalize the political environment while urging the government of Kazakhstan to address the shortcomings the OSCE report highlighted. I stand with our U.S. Embassy and commend Kazakhstan for the progress it is making on its march towards democracy, especially given that Kazakhstan only achieved its independence twenty years ago, having lived under Soviet oppression for some one hundred years.

As President Nazarbayev noted in his Op Ed of April 1, 2011 published in the Washington Post, “It took the great democracies of the world centuries to develop” and, as such, Kazakhstan is not going to become a fully developed democracy overnight. But Kazakhstan has proved that its commitment to democracy is irreversible. So is Kazakhstan’s long-standing friendship with the U.S.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has fully supported U.S.-led efforts against nuclear proliferation and, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan continues to provide indispensable aid to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

I am proud of Kazakhstan’s accomplishments and, once more, I congratulate President Nazarbayev on his re-election as President of Kazakhstan. I have every confidence that he will spare no effort in delivering stability, security and prosperity for and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERY  
STUDENT COUNTS ACT

**HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 7, 2011*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Every Student Counts Act,” legislation that will prioritize high school graduation for all of our nation’s students.

In 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) passed with broad bipartisan support. The purpose of NCLB was to ensure that every student in America would receive a quality education. However, over the past ten years, NCLB has not lived up to its promises. Certain aspects of the law are difficult to implement and are not bringing about the results we thought it would. One of the major shortcomings of NCLB is its failure to hold schools accountable for dropouts. Although we believed we addressed this issue in the original NCLB legislation, this portion of the law has not been implemented as we had hoped. Instead, under current law, the only meaningful accountability standard for high schools is students’ scores on standardized tests, with virtually no concern given to how many students graduate or drop out of school. Unfortunately, this myopic accountability standard has created an incentive for high schools to push out students who are struggling academically, so that their test scores are not counted in the assessments. Furthermore, the current accountability system also has allowed States to report graduation rates inconsistently and in misleading ways. Finally, NCLB does not require the disaggregation of graduation rates by subgroup, leading to incomplete data on how our schools are doing with one subgroup compared to others.

What is clear is the fact that the current high school accountability system is failing both our students and our nation. Each year, approximately 1.23 million secondary school students—one-third of all secondary school students—fail to graduate with their peers. In addition, nearly 2,000 secondary schools—roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States—produce about half of the nation’s secondary school dropouts. In these schools, the number of seniors is routinely 60 percent or less than the number of freshmen three years earlier. Moreover, almost half of the nation’s African-American students and nearly 40 percent of Latino students attend these so called “dropout factories,” while only 11 percent of White students do.

Unfortunately, these dismal numbers are just the beginning of the story. Research shows that the difference in lifetime earnings between a high school dropout and a high school graduate is about \$260,000. A dropout’s loss in potential earnings can cause serious hardships throughout his or her life. For example, statistics show that high school dropouts are more likely to be on public assistance programs such as welfare than students who complete high school. In addition, high school dropouts that do find employment are much more likely to work at unskilled jobs that offer little opportunity for upward mobility. There is also a strong correlation between high school dropouts and juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancy. Therefore, we cannot sit back and allow this problem to escalate. We must hold