JIM
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UNITED STATES SENATOR • VERMONT

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JEFFORDS/DASCHLE INTRODUCE GLOBAL CLIMATE SECURITY ACT OF 2003

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords, I – Vt., Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle, D – S.D., the Senate Democratic Leader today introduced the Global Climate Security Act of 2003 to initiate several programs for the United States to address global climate change, reduce air pollution and promote clean energy.

"We don't have decades to clear our skies of pollution, or to start addressing global warming. The science is there. The authority and the resources are there. The time is now. Unfortunately, at this time what seems to be lacking is real leadership from the White House," said Chairman Jeffords. "This bill is a rational and responsible step toward cleaner air and a safer future."

The Global Climate Security Act of 2003 initiates several actions for the United States to begin responsibly addressing global climate change. The bill would:

1) create Sense of the Senate language that the Congress make climate change a high priority, pass a multi-pollutant bill and promote clean energy domestically and internationally;

2) establish a national greenhouse gas emission registry and reporting system, identical to S.1870 sponsored by Jeffords and U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine, D – N.J.;

3) create Sense of the Senate language that the U.S. must act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and participate in developing a future binding climate change treaty;

4) establish a commission to recommend a legislative roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

5) require the President to regularly issue a U.S. climate change impact assessment;

6) require the President to issue a report on funding for programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

7) require changes in greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts be considered as part of environmental reviews for federal projects or actions;

8) direct the President to reduce the Federal government's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2013;

9) encourage the Securities and Exchange Commission to clarify regulations disclosing the financial risks due to net greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts;

10) require the Department of Commerce to develop a methodology for determining the greenhouse gases emitted in the production and delivery of goods and services imported into the U.S.;

11) provide $2 billion in grants to states for greenhouse gas data collection, emission projects and research efforts; and

12) require the Department of the Treasury submit a report to Congress on changes to the tax code that would result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safer levels.

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