

San Francisco
2008

House Action on Global Warming:

Why smart growth and public transportation advocates should care

Janine Benner
Legislative Director
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
October 29, 2008

Things have changed in Washington!

Former House Speaker Tom Delay
on Global Warming:

"Man is not causing climate change. Climate change may be a phenomenon, but there is no science to suggest that man is the cause of climate change, and therefore you do not have to undermine our economy nor take people's freedom away on something that science has not proven yet."



*On "Hardball" with
Chris Matthews, 2008*

Current House Speaker Nancy
Pelosi on Global Warming:



"We will work together, holding hearings, developing legislation, and tackling one of humanity's greatest challenges yet - global warming."

*Testimony to the House Science
Committee, 2007*

Things have changed in Washington!

Former Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee
Joe Barton



"I cannot imagine any objective finding that CO₂ is a pollutant. If that's true, God is a polluter."

*Interview with Greenwire,
August 2006*

Current Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee
John Dingell



"Politically, scientifically, legally, and morally, the question has been settled: regulation of greenhouse gases in the United States is coming."

*Memo to Committee
Members, October
2008*

Things have changed in Washington

Why have things changed?

- 2006 Election
- Al Gore
- Katrina and other natural disasters
- Polar Bears
- Public pressure
- Non-traditional constituents - fishermen, industry, businesses, national security experts
- Science
- State and Local Action
- Pressure from other nations

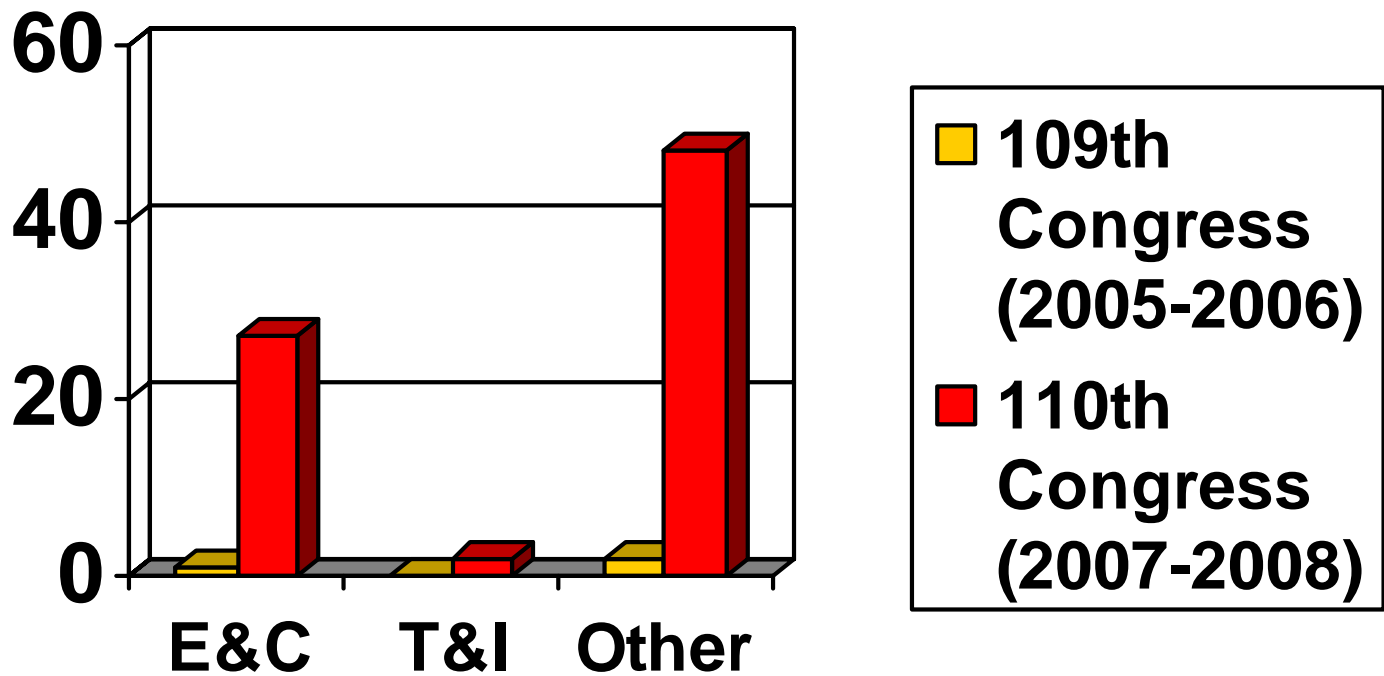


"We know the climate is changing and greenhouse gases are increasing. Our industry has a responsibility to contribute to discussions on policy issues...and take concrete actions ourselves."

Rex Tillerson, CEO of Exxon Mobil, February, 2007

Global Warming Activity

Hearings on global warming in the 109th and 110th Congresses



Global Warming Accomplishments

- **H.R. 6: Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007**
 - Coordinates Energy Policy with Environmental goals
 - Increased energy efficiency standards for buildings, appliances, and lighting
 - Increased vehicle fuel efficiency
 - Green jobs
 - Transportation Department Office of Climate Change
 - Analyses show could get us 25% of the greenhouse gas reductions we need by 2030
- **H.R. 6049: Energy Improvement and Extension Act**
 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Tax Credits
 - Carbon Audit of the Tax Code
 - Bike Commuter Act!

Other Global Warming And Energy Activities

- **H.R. 6052: Saving Energy Through Public Transportation**
 - Funding for public transportation
 - Hasn't passed the Senate
- **Other policies**
 - Renewable Energy Standards
 - Closing the "Hummer Tax Loophole"
 - Offshore Drilling
 - Economic stimulus

Global Warming Legislation



Putting a price on carbon:

Cap and Trade: emission reductions certainty

Carbon Tax: cost certainty

Global Warming Legislation

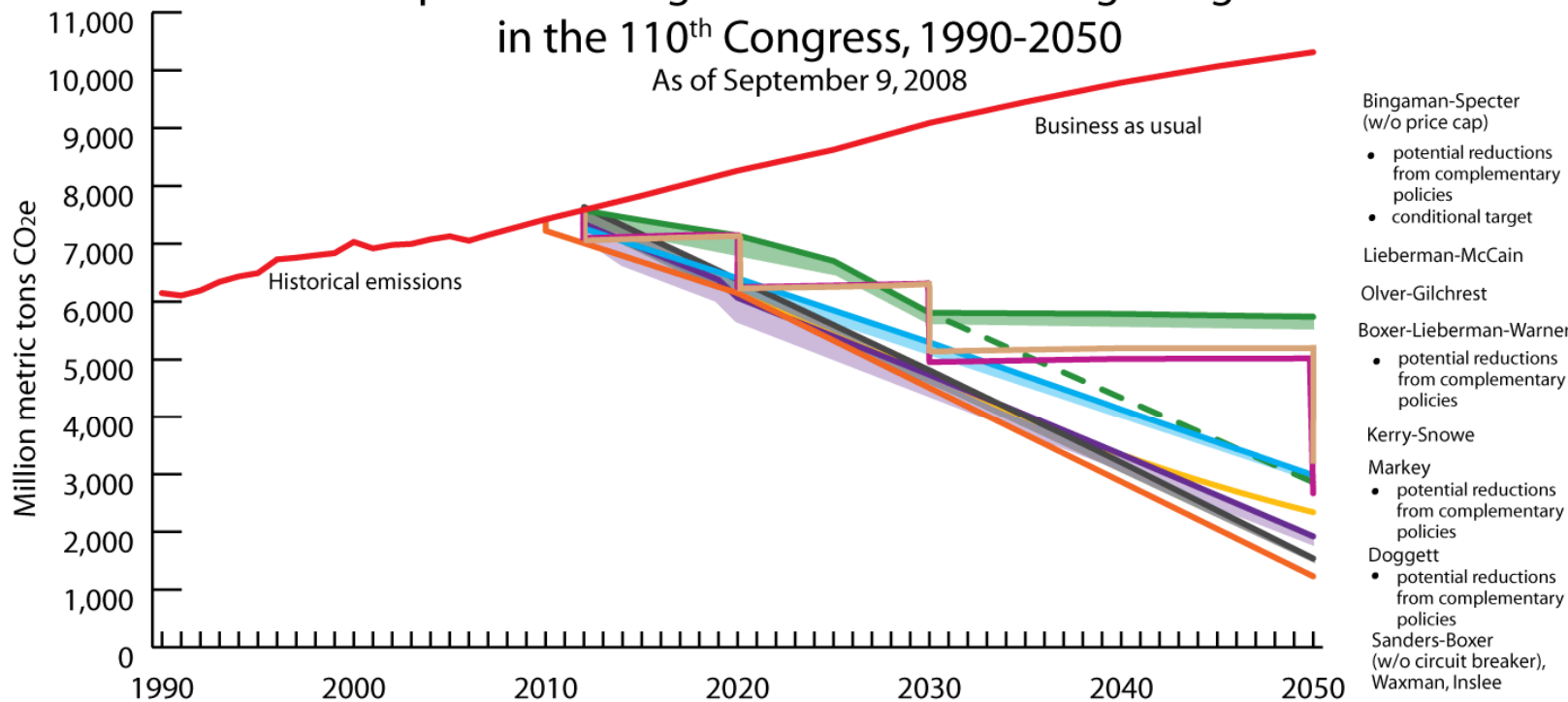
Major Climate Bills in the 110th Congress:

- Climate Stewardship Act (Olver, D-MA)
- The Safe Climate Act (Waxman, D-CA)
- iCAP - Investing in Climate Action and Protection Act (Markey, D-MA)
- **Climate MATTERS – Climate Market, Auction, Trust & Trade Emissions Reduction System Act (Doggett, D-TX)**
- America's Energy Security Trust Fund Act (Larson, D-CT)
- Save Our Climate Act (Stark, D-CA)
- **Energy and Commerce Committee Draft (Dingell, D-MI and Boucher, D-VA)**
- Progressive Principles (Waxman, Markey, Inslee, D-WA)

Global Warming Legislation

Comparison of Legislative Climate Change Targets in the 110th Congress, 1990-2050

As of September 9, 2008



 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

For a full discussion of underlying methodology, assumptions and references, please see <http://www.wri.org/usclimatetargets>. WRI does not endorse any of these bills. This analysis is intended to fairly and accurately compare explicit carbon caps in Congressional climate proposals and uses underlying data that may differ from other analyses. Price caps, circuit breakers and other cost-containment mechanisms contained in some bills may allow emissions to deviate from the pathways depicted in this analysis.

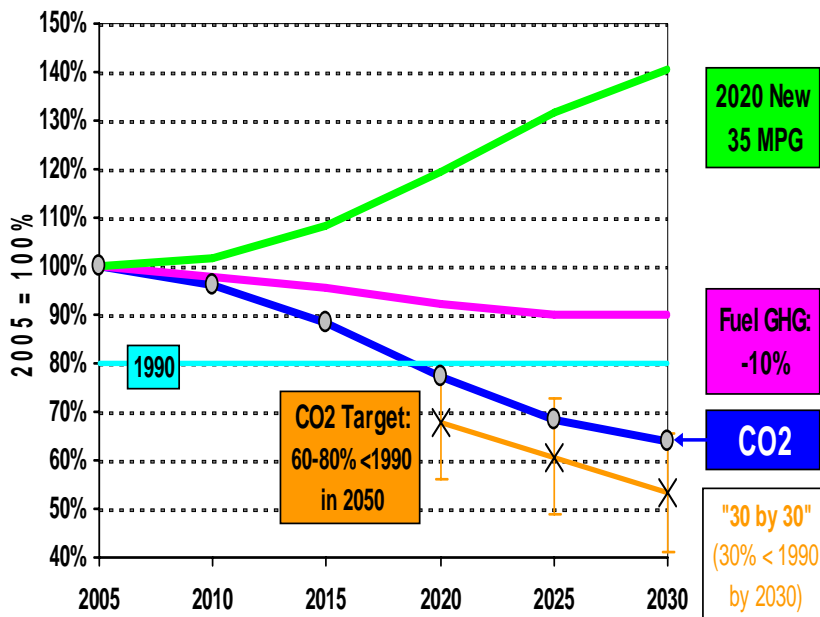
Global Warming Legislation

Issues to be resolved:

- What should the cap be in the short and long term?
- How to distribute allowances?
- How to spend the revenue?
- How to control costs to industry and consumers?
- **How to deal with transportation emissions?**

Transportation Emissions

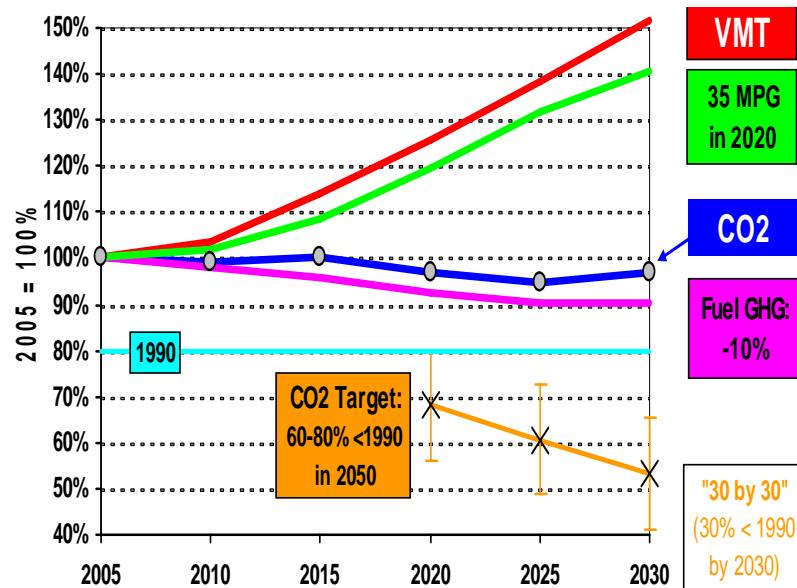
CO₂ Savings from the 2007 Energy Bill: CAFE Standards and Low-GHG Fuels, assuming no growth in VMT



Source: S. Winkelman, based on EIA, HR6 and Growing Cooler .



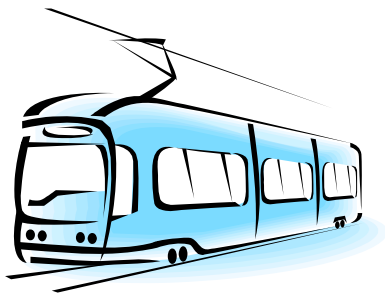
VMT Growth Projected to Offset gains from CAFE and Low-GHG Fuels



Source: S. Winkelman based on EIA, HR6 and Growing Cooler .



Transportation Emissions Solutions

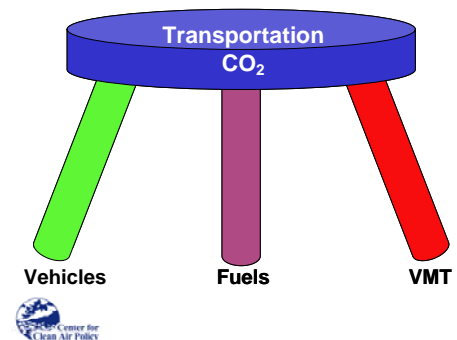


Transportation Emissions

How to align global warming and transportation goals?

- **Include within the emissions cap**
 - Is the increase in gas prices enough?
 - Not according to the Congressional Budget Office:

“Charging a price for CO₂ emissions would raise the price of gasoline, but that increase – and the resulting decrease in vehicle emissions – would be relatively small. Most of the reduction in CO₂ emissions would occur in other sectors.” (October, 2006)
 - How to get at land use and municipal emissions?
- **Use revenue to fund reductions through complimentary policies**
- **Transportation reauthorization**



Blumenauer Legislative Initiatives

- **H.R. 6495: Transportation and Housing Options for Gas Price Relief Act**
 - Funding for alternative transportation
 - Telecommuting tax credit
 - Location efficient housing
 - Expand Safe Routes to School
 - Consumer Education – Drive Less Save More
 - Disclosure of transportation costs of housing choices
- **Community Climate Solutions**
 - VMT reduction goal
 - Smart growth tax credits
 - Support for community planning efforts
 - Pilot programs for TODs, VMT tax, pay-as-you-drive insurance
 - Complete streets
 - Add location efficiency to energy star homes
 - Improve data and modeling
- **CLEAN TEA**
 - Revenue from cap and trade auction to support VMT reduction

111th Congress

What can we expect in the next few years?

- Energy and Commerce Committee legislation
- Ways and Means Committee legislation
- Transportation Reauthorization
- Other opportunities

111th Congress

Obama on Global Warming

"I believe that global warming is not just the greatest environmental challenge facing our planet—it is one of our greatest challenges of any kind...Combating global warming will be a top priority of my presidency, and I will attend to it personally."



McCain on Global Warming

"I will clean up the planet. I will make global warming a priority."

