



## Kriss Worthington

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

March 27, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support The Safe Climate Act, A Science-Based Global Warming Prevention Legislation

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council 1) support the Safe Climate Act, sponsored by Representative Henry A. Waxman, which would prevent the worst impacts of global warming by cutting U.S. emissions by 80% by 2050; and 2) thank Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her continued support for this necessary legislation.

#### BACKGROUND:

Introduced in 2006, the Safe Climate Act proposes to set targets and require actions nationwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through 2050. This legislation will fully freeze greenhouse gas emissions in 2010 at 2009 levels. Beginning in 2011, emissions shall be cut roughly 2% every year, reaching 1990 levels by 2020. After 2020, emissions levels shall be cut by roughly 5% every year to bring emissions levels to roughly 80% lower than 1990 levels by 2050. These goals, similar to those announced by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Governor Arnold Schwarzeneger, will commit the United States as a nation to a standard greenhouse gas reduction plan.

#### *From Representative Henry A. Waxman:*

The Safe Climate Act is implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The Safe Climate Act directs EPA to issue regulations sufficient to achieve the emissions targets through the combination of a cap-and-trade program and other measures.

The bill directs EPA to set a cap on greenhouse gas emissions from the largest polluters and allow the polluters to meet the cap by buying and selling emissions allowances.

- Allowances are distributed according to a plan developed by the President, with an opportunity for Congress to ratify or modify the plan.
- Proceeds from auctioning allowances are deposited in the "Climate Reinvestment Fund."
- Revenues in the fund are dedicated to maximizing the public benefit and promoting economic growth, including supporting technology research and development, compensating consumers for any energy cost

increases, providing transition assistance for affected workers and regions, and protecting against harm from climate change, such as safeguarding water supplies, protecting against hurricanes, and mitigating harm to fish and wildlife habitat.

The bill directs EPA to set standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles that are at least as stringent as the current California standards. EPA must tighten these standards in 2014 and periodically thereafter.

The bill directs the Department of Energy to establish national standards requiring an increasing proportion of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources, reaching 20% of retail electricity sold in 2020.

The bill directs the Department of Energy to establish national standards requiring utilities to obtain, each year, 1% of their energy supplies through energy efficiency improvements at customer facilities. These savings would accumulate each year through 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

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