

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

At the end of title X, add the following new title:

1 **Title XI—SENSE OF CONGRESS**
2 **ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

3 **SEC. 10001. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON CLIMATE**
4 **CHANGE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) Evidence continues to build that increases
8 in atmospheric concentrations of man-made green-
9 house gases are contributing to global climate
10 change.

11 (2) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
12 Change (IPCC) has concluded that “there is new
13 and stronger evidence that most of the warming ob-
14 served over the last 50 years is attributable to
15 human activities” and that the Earth’s average tem-
16 perature can be expected to rise between 2.5 and
17 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit in this century.

18 (3) The National Academy of Sciences con-
19 firmed the findings of the IPCC, stating that “the
20 IPCC’s conclusion that most of the observed warm-
21 ing of the last 50 years is likely to have been due
22 to the increase of greenhouse gas concentrations ac-



1 curately reflects the current thinking of the scientific
2 community on this issue” and that “there is general
3 agreement that the observed warming is real and
4 particularly strong within the past twenty years”.
5 The National Academy of Sciences also noted that
6 “because there is considerable uncertainty in current
7 understanding of how the climate system varies nat-
8 urally and reacts to emissions of greenhouse gases
9 and aerosols, current estimates of the magnitude of
10 future warming should be regarded as tentative and
11 subject to future adjustments upward or down-
12 ward”.

13 (4) The IPCC has stated that in the last 40
14 years, the global average sea level has risen, ocean
15 heat content has increased, and snow cover and ice
16 extent have decreased, which threatens to inundate
17 low-lying island nations and coastal regions through-
18 out the world.

19 (5) In October 2000, a United States Govern-
20 ment report found that global climate change may
21 harm the United States by altering crop yields, ac-
22 celerating sea-level rise, and increasing the spread of
23 tropical infectious diseases.

24 (6) In 1992, the United States ratified the
25 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



1 Change (UNFCCC), the ultimate objective of which
2 is the “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentra-
3 tions in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent
4 dangerous anthropogenic interference with the cli-
5 mate system. Such a level should be achieved within
6 a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt
7 naturally to climate change, to ensure that food pro-
8 duction is not threatened and to enable economic de-
9 velopment to proceed in a sustainable manner”.

10 (7) The UNFCCC stated in part that the Par-
11 ties to the Convention are to implement policies
12 “with the aim of returning . . . to their 1990 levels
13 anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other
14 greenhouse gases” under the principle that “policies
15 and measures . . . should be appropriate for the spe-
16 cific conditions of each Party and should be inte-
17 grated with national development programmes, tak-
18 ing into account that economic development is essen-
19 tial for adopting measures to address climate
20 change”.

21 (8) There is a shared international responsi-
22 bility to address this problem, as industrial nations
23 are the largest historic and current emitters of
24 greenhouse gases and developing nations” emissions
25 will significantly increase in the future.



1 (9) The UNFCCC further stated that “devel-
2 oped country Parties should take the lead in com-
3 bating climate change and the adverse effects there-
4 of”, as these nations are the largest historic and
5 current emitters of greenhouse gases. The UNFCCC
6 also stated that “steps required to understand and
7 address climate change will be environmentally, so-
8 cially and economically most effective if they are
9 based on relevant scientific, technical and economic
10 considerations and continually re-evaluated in the
11 light of new findings in these areas”.

12 (10) Senate Resolution 98 of the One Hundred
13 Fifth Congress, which expressed that developing na-
14 tions must also be included in any future, binding
15 climate change treaty and such a treaty must not re-
16 sult in serious harm to the United States economy,
17 should not cause the United States to abandon its
18 shared responsibility to help reduce the risks of cli-
19 mate change and its impacts. Future international
20 efforts in this regard should focus on recognizing the
21 equitable responsibilities for addressing climate
22 change by all nations, including commitments by the
23 largest developing country emitters in a future, bind-
24 ing climate change treaty.



1 (11) It is the position of the United States that
2 it will not interfere with the plans of any nation that
3 chooses to ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol
4 to the UNFCCC.

5 (12) American businesses need to know how
6 governments worldwide will address the risks of cli-
7 mate change.

8 (13) The United States benefits from invest-
9 ments in the research, development and deployment
10 of a range of clean energy and efficiency tech-
11 nologies that can reduce the risks of climate change
12 and its impacts and that can make the United
13 States economy more productive, bolster energy se-
14 curity, create jobs, and protect the environment.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
16 United States Congress that the United States should
17 demonstrate international leadership and responsibility in
18 reducing the health, environmental, and economic risks
19 posed by climate change by—

20 (1) taking responsible action to ensure signifi-
21 cant and meaningful reductions in emissions of
22 greenhouse gases from all sectors;

23 (2) creating flexible international and domestic
24 mechanisms, including joint implementation, tech-
25 nology deployment, tradable credits for emissions re-



1 ductions and carbon sequestration projects that will
2 reduce, avoid, and sequester greenhouse gas emis-
3 sions; and

4 (3) participating in international negotiations,
5 including putting forth a proposal to the Conference
6 of the Parties, with the objective of securing United
7 States participation in a future binding climate
8 change Treaty in a manner that is consistent with
9 the environmental objectives of the UNFCCC, that
10 protects the economic interests of the United States,
11 and recognizes the shared international responsi-
12 bility for addressing climate change, including devel-
13 oping country participation.

