

LET'S MAKE ★★ HISTORY ★★

Setting the Record Straight on Cap and Trade

Summary: While Senator Lisa Murkowski supports development of renewable, clean-energy technologies to reduce carbon emissions, she opposes all current so-called “cap and trade” and carbon tax bills as damaging to Alaska’s economy and its citizens. In 2007, when it appeared that more extreme cap and trade bills were gaining traction in the Senate, Lisa Murkowski co-sponsored a climate change bill with Senator Ted Stevens. This legislation sought to protect Alaskan businesses and industry while providing significant resources to help them expand. The introduction of the climate change bill helped prevent the passage of more onerous bills that threatened Alaska’s economy and energy future.

History: In recent years, the debate over whether and how to respond to climate change has become an excuse for imposing the largest tax-and-spending bill in modern history. The Senator has strongly opposed passage of the 1,400-page Waxman-Markey climate bill, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in December 2009, and a current bill by Senator John Kerry. In previous years she opposed similar bills by Sens. Barbara Boxer and Joe Lieberman calling for 80 percent reductions in carbon emissions over the next four decades.

Lisa Murkowski is a fierce advocate for balanced policy solutions such as promoting geothermal and marine hydrokinetic, (ocean energy), helping further hydroelectric development and wind turbine and biomass power technology. She has introduced legislation that could help with construction of the Susitna River and many other hydro projects statewide. She also has pushed the use of natural gas, which is vital for financing of an Alaska natural gas pipeline project that is so needed for the state’s future economy. Lisa opposes legislation that will drive up energy costs, hurting the U.S. economy, preferring instead to provide tax and fiscal incentives to encourage development of new technology to reduce sky-high energy prices. Her foremost concern is to make sure the policy in question does not harm Alaska’s economy, or the American economy as a whole. Lisa also recognizes that international participation is essential to any effort to address climate change, in order to both protect America’s competitiveness and ensure that climate changes affecting Alaskans are reduced.

Lisa Murkowski has been the leader in efforts to prevent economic impacts on the U.S. economy. She led the effort to stop unelected bureaucrats at the EPA from administratively enforcing carbon limitations under the Clean Air Act. Her disapproval resolution won bipartisan support from 47 senators earlier this year, but failed to pass. She continues to look for ways to make sure the EPA is not allowed to threaten the economy with ill-considered regulations.

Paid for by Lisa Murkowski for U.S. Senate