

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: August 25, 2009
To: Chair Betsy Hodges and IGR Committee Members
Subject: Support for passage of Climate Change Bill
Recommendation: Adopt as a part of the policy initiative section of the Federal Agenda as amended on July 17, 2009, the attached amendment relating to climate change. The amendment would replace the "Energy and Environment Policy and Funding" on page 11.

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Manager Approved by: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director _____ Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest, Gene Ranieri

Supporting Information

The Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the City's federal legislative agenda include support for Congress to pass a meaningful energy bill designed to achieve a carbon dioxide reduction of over 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 through an economy-wide cap along with provisions to promote energy efficiency, clean energy, and improved land use in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 15th Conference of Parties meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009.

In June, the US House of Representatives narrowly passed the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" (H.R. 2454), the comprehensive (1400 pages) House energy/climate change bill. Offered by full Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Subcommittee Chairman Edward Markey (D-MA), the bill establishes a "cap-and-trade" climate change initiative and would implement other aspects of the Obama Administration's green energy agenda. The Minnesota congressional delegation voted along party lines with five in support and three opposed.

The Senate will begin working on their version of an energy bill after the August recess. Currently in Environment and Public Works Committee Hearings are starting with a vote expected in September and then forwarded to at least four other Senate committees. Passage of a meaningful bill is a difficult task.

This issue is important to the City if we are to meet our climate change target. Nationally, cities have been a leader on moving forward on reducing dependence on fossil fuels. While cities account for about one percent of the Earth's surface, cities together produce about 75 percent of the world's carbon and are home to half the planet's people.

Amendment to the Federal Agenda

Energy, Climate Change, Environment Policy and Funding

~~Minneapolis is eager to do its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions envisions itself as a city with an "enriched environment." Plentiful green spaces, public gathering places, restored urban forests, clean air and water, sustainable and energy efficient buildings, and increased use of renewable energy are characteristics of the enriched environment. To achieve the goal federal, state and city policies and resources will be needed.~~

~~The city has received federal funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG); however, the funding is for one year.~~

~~The city supports continued funding for the EECBG and supports legislation that is intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by approximately 80% of 1990 levels. The goal can be achieved through such policies as an economy wide cap complimented by policies to promote energy efficiency, clean energy and improved land use.~~

~~Minneapolis The city also supports the passage of climate change legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by approximately 80% of 1990 levels.prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009.~~

We support ~~The~~ climate change legislation ~~should~~ that includes the following:

- A cap, trade, and auction system that would: (1) ensure cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases to at least the reduction levels set forth in 2007 Minnesota statute (30 percent by 2025), (2) maximize public benefits while minimizing the potential for market manipulation, (3) support innovation in the energy efficiency and sustainable energy technologies with the greatest promise to reduce greenhouse gases over the long-term, (4) avoid inequitable impacts on low-income communities, and (5) maximize the likelihood of trading with other cap-and-trade systems.
- (1) more aggressive emission-reduction goals in the near- and mid-term; (2) stronger clean-energy and energy efficiency provisions; (3) emission offsets that are measurable, verifiable, and permanent; (4) broad application across all sectors of the economy, with no special exceptions and (5) increased distribution of allowances by auction, as opposed to allocation, for each year going forward.
- Support for full engagement by the U.S. government in international climate-protection negotiations, with the goal of achieving an effective global agreement to reduce emissions by the amount that science says is necessary.
- Support for the adoption and enforcement of state and local energy and land use codes.
- Funding and facilitation of innovative local financing solutions.
- Allocation of federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to support increased investment in public transit as well as bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- Allocation of funding, including cap-and-trade credits or auction revenues, to local governments for investment in climate mitigation activities, through such initiatives as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, as well as renewable energy projects, adaptive management initiatives, consumer protection, and "green" workforce development programs.