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Waxman introduces bill to boost renewables & green jobs

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Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), chair of the House Energy & Commerce Committee and Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), chair of the Committee's Energy & the Environment Subcommittee, introduced "H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act" on Friday. The full Committee begins markup of the bill Monday, May 18th. Waxman is sticking with his pledge to complete committee work on the bill before Congress begins its week-long Memorial Day break next Friday.

In introducing the 932-page bill, Waxman said "The legislation will create millions of new clean energy jobs, save consumers hundreds of billions of dollars in energy costs, promote America's energy independence and security, and cut global warming pollution. In support of these goals, this legislation ensures that consumers and industries in all regions of the country are protected. I look forward to working with all members of the Committee to approve this legislation to make America the world leader in new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies."

Markey added that "This bill marks the dawn of the clean energy age. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revive our economy and create millions of good-paying clean energy jobs. After months of hearings and discussions with my colleagues, I am pleased that we have produced a bill that has widespread support from all regions of the country."

The legislation itself promises in its first sentence "To create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy." But prospects for House passage of the bill are in doubt. Moderate Democrats have already won concessions from Waxman to slow the pace of cracking down on carbon emissions. Those concessions are upsetting environmentalists. As well, Republicans charge that the bill's cap-and-trade provisions will have a disastrous effect on the U.S. economy. They also call for more support for coal and nuclear power.

To read the full text of the 932-page bill, go to:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090515/hr2454.pdf