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## Waxman & Markey still working out details of their climate bill

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At a June 24<sup>th</sup> rally bringing environmental, faith-based, labor and veterans organizations together in support of the House's comprehensive climate and energy bill, Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) told the cheering crowd that "On Friday, because of this historic coalition, we are going to pass the most important energy and environment bill in history."

Markey predicted that "With this bill, we are going to create a revolution. We are going to create a green energy revolution not only for our country, but for the entire world. We are going to begin a process by which we are going to reduce the amount of carbon that we send up into the atmosphere. But at the same time, we are going to begin to back out the oil that we import from countries that we should not be importing it from. We are going to create millions of new jobs in clean energy companies, all across this nation. And we are going at the same time to protect consumers and industries from the effects of competition from overseas."



Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) addresses an energy bill rally on Capitol Hill June 24. Photo: Agri-Pulse

Markey said “the whole world is waiting to see whether or not President Obama can arrive in Copenhagen [in December] as the leader of the attempt to reduce greenhouse gases while at the same time unleashing a clean energy jobs revolution in our country and on our planet.”

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), co-sponsor of the American Clean Energy & Security Act (ACES) along with Markey, told the crowd of energy-bill activists to “keep working” on House members to ensure that the bill passes in the House vote scheduled for Friday.

Waxman said the bill will transform U.S. energy use by promoting renewable sources of electricity, greater efficiency, new technology, and market-based programs to reduce carbon emissions. But he also acknowledged work remains to be done both in convincing enough undecided members to vote for the bill – and also in filling in some of the details which remain unsettled.

Referring to his days of protracted negotiations with House Agriculture Committee Chair Collin Peterson (D-MN) and other members with rural constituencies, Waxman said “I was surprised at the attitude of the agricultural community, by their lack of confidence in the Environmental Protection Agency.” He said he came to realize that “they wanted the Department of Agriculture to be the lead one in evaluating the agricultural offsets.” He said there was agreement on “first of all, setting out criteria for those offsets, so that we know they will be legitimate. Then, aside from that, agreeing that the USDA would be in charge.” But he added that the White House is now involved in finalizing provisions “because EPA has to be involved as well, everyone acknowledges that, so we’re going to work on that later.” He said both USDA and EPA will “have a role, there is an appropriate role for each of those agencies, and we will clarify that as the bill moves along with some guidance from the administration.”

Waxman also noted that another area left open concerns rules for derivatives trading. He said setting final rules will be worked out by “the Finance Committee and the Agriculture Committee, who both have jurisdiction.” A third unsettled area is the bill’s definition of woody biomass but he promised “a completed definition of biomass by the end of the day.”

Waxman praised both the White House and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) for their hard work in supporting the legislation. He also noted that the bill has received crucial support from industry groups which have been “actively sending in letters, making calls, getting constituents to let their members know that they are behind the bill.” He said that despite isolated cases of businesses opposed to the bill, “there is not one industry group that is against this bill. . . no sector of our economy is saying this is bad for them. They are recognizing this could be a win/win for everybody.”