

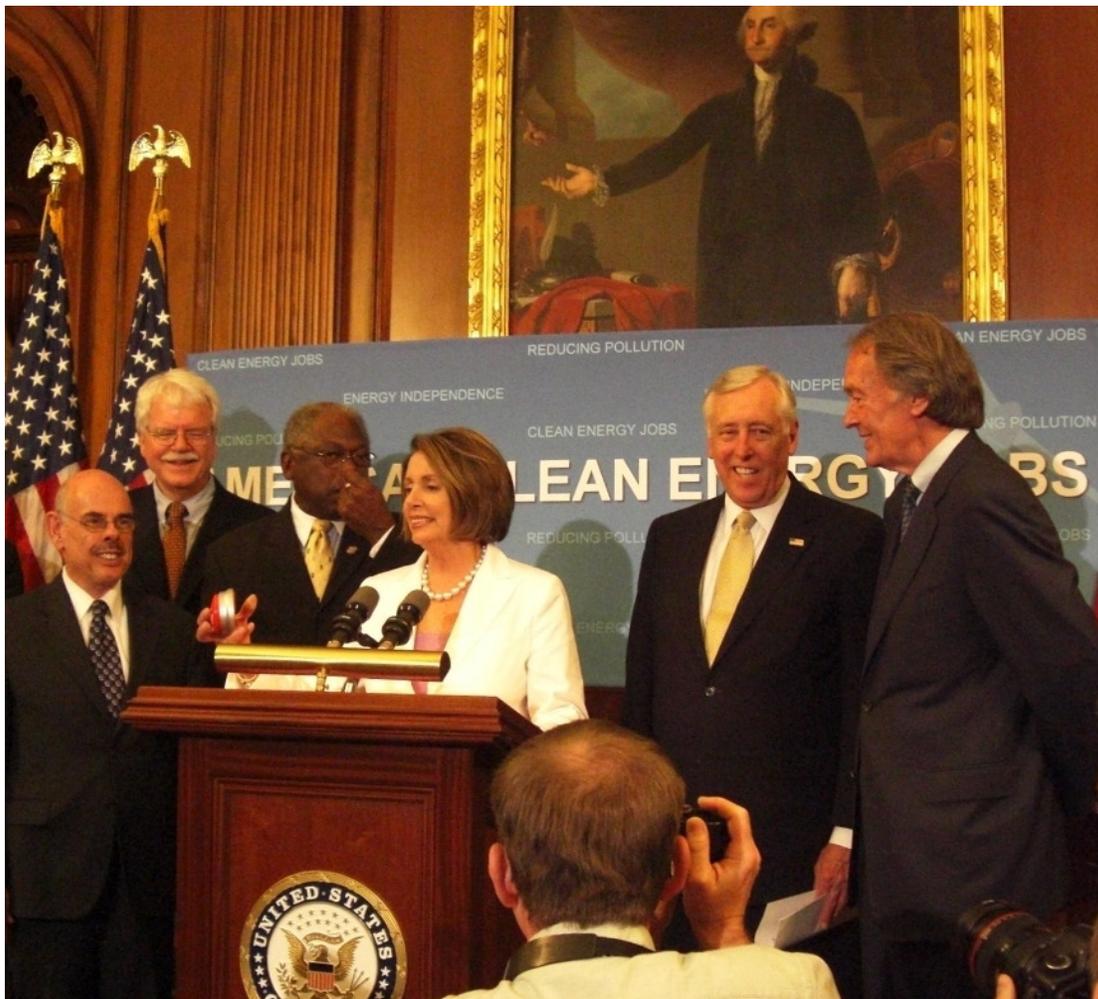
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## President welcomes, Boehner blasts climate change bill

By Jon H. Harsch

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Even while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was praising President Obama Friday evening for playing a crucial role in securing the House's 219-212 vote for comprehensive climate change legislation, President Obama thanked Pelosi for her "prodigious effort" – and called the close vote "a victory of the future over the past."



Celebrating the 219-212 climate bill vote, L to R, Reps. Henry Waxman (D-CA), George Miller (D-CA), Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Ed Markey (D-MA). Photo: Agri-Pulse.

The President said that “Today, the House of Representatives took historic action with the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act. It’s a bold and necessary step that holds the promise of creating new industries and millions of new jobs, decreasing our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, and strictly limiting the release of pollutants that threaten the health of families and communities and the planet itself.” But the President also pointed out that more work lies ahead, saying “Now it’s up to the Senate to take the next step. And I’m confident that in the coming weeks and months the Senate will demonstrate the same commitment to addressing what is a tremendous challenge and an extraordinary opportunity.”

House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) painted a different picture. Following the vote, he commented that “Today, in what will be remembered as the defining vote of the 111th Congress, House Democrats passed a 1,500-page national energy tax bill that no one even had the chance to read. . . Speaker Pelosi’s national energy tax is a bureaucratic nightmare that will cost families more than ever for electricity, gasoline, food, and other products, and cost millions of American workers their jobs. This is a tax on anyone who drives a car, buys an American-made product, or flips on a light switch. It will drive up energy costs, send millions of jobs overseas to countries like China and India, and place an especially heavy burden on rural America.”

Commenting on the eight Republicans who voted for the bill, Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ) said that “I think Republicans are disappointed with anyone who voted for this bill. . . It is so far-reaching and got so little scrutiny. . . One third of the bill was added after 3 AM this morning.”

Celebrating the victory afterwards, Speaker Pelosi said the most important point about the bill is summed up in four words, “jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs.” House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said “The American Clean Energy and Security Act creates jobs that cannot be outsourced and significant investments in new energy technologies. . . This is about America’s enterprise, about America’s entrepreneurial spirit, America’s ability to innovate. It dramatically increases our energy independence.”

To check on how individual members voted on the climate & energy bill, click here: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll477.xml>