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## Senators Boxer & Kerry launch their climate 'security' bill

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As promised, eleven passionate Democratic Senators unveiled their 821-page Senate climate change “Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act” on Capitol Hill Wednesday. First the bill’s chief architects, Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA), explained the need for the bill. Then Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Bernie Sanders (D-VT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) each spoke about specific benefits provided by the legislation, ranging from new consumer protection measures to beefed-up national security and new sources of income for farmers and ranchers.



Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) voices strong support for the Senate climate change bill, flanked, L to R, by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tom Udall (D-NM), the bill’s authors Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and, hidden from camera, Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bernie Sanders (D-VT), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).

“This is a security bill that puts Americans back in charge of our energy future and makes it clear that we will combat global climate change with American ingenuity. It is our country’s defense against the harms of pollution and the security risks of global climate change,” Kerry said. “Our health, our security, our economy, our environment, all demand we reinvent the way America uses energy. Our addiction to foreign oil hurts our economy, helps our enemies and risks our security. By taking decisive action, we can and will stop climate change from becoming a ‘threat multiplier’ that makes an already dangerous world staggeringly more so. I want to thank my partner in this important legislative mission, Senator Barbara Boxer, for helping to craft a bill that can put millions of Americans back to work, invest in homegrown innovation, and safeguard our children’s health and our environment.”

Senator Boxer said “We know clean energy is the ticket to strong, stable economic growth. It’s right here in front of us, in the ingenuity of our workers and the vision of our entrepreneurs. We must seize this opportunity, or others will move ahead. This is our time. Global warming is our challenge. Economic recovery is our challenge. American leadership is our challenge. Let’s step up right now. Let’s not quit until we have fulfilled our responsibility to our children and our grandchildren. It is an honor to work side by side on this important legislation with Senator Kerry, who recognized very early that this issue is about America’s national and economic security.”

Noting that she’s a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Amy Klobuchar said that the Ag Committee will fine tune the bill “to make sure our farmers get a fair deal.” She said the climate bill is needed to make sure that new developments in renewable fuels are made in the U.S.A. – not in China or Europe.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said that “When you create green jobs all across America, you’re investing not only in the new technologies of wind and solar and biofuels and geothermal and hydropower, but your also investing in building our middle class. You’re investing in manufacturing. . . What you’re also doing is you’re investing in agriculture through a secondary revenue stream of biofuels, cellulosic ethanol, anaerobic digesters. . . you’re investing in the whole agricultural sector.”

For a link to the 821-page climate bill and a summary of ag-related provisions in the bill, go to: <http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20090929H3.pdf>