

## Industry, governors & senators line up to curb EPA's pollution control powers

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Washington, March 10 – EPA and its plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions starting next year unless Congress acts first are coming under intense fire on multiple fronts. On Wednesday, the American Farm Bureau Federation first met privately with Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), then held a public session with six Republican senators who support Farm Bureau's national "Don't Cap Our Future" campaign against proposed cap-and-trade climate legislation.

At the Farm Bureau event, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the Ranking Member of the Senate Energy Committee, praised Farm Bureau for leading the fight against cap-and-trade legislation. She told the Farm Bureau state presidents and board members gathered in the Senate Agriculture Committee's hearing room for the event that "This is not a



From left, Farm Bureau Pres. Bob Stallman and Sen. Murkowski (R-AK), speaking to Farm Bureau state presidents & board members. Photo: Agri-Pulse.

regional issue, this is not an energy issue, or a farm issue. This is going to impact all aspects of our economic society, all aspects of what it is that makes this country great, whether you are growing grain or whether you are drilling for oil. The implications of this are so onerous, so overwhelming, and yet we still haven't been able to get this administration to remove from the table the most economically damaging tool that is out there and that is EPA regulation through the Clean Air Act."

Murkowski and Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman explained that the next is to sign up 10 more senators, to reach the 51 votes needed to pass Murkowski's pending "Resolution of Disapproval" designed to block EPA plans to regulate emissions. Murkowski said that once EPA is blocked, other approaches to curb emissions can be worked out by Congress

over time “in a sound and responsible way that doesn’t harm our economy, doesn’t harm our industries, doesn’t push the jobs overseas.”

Murkowski said the good news is that her resolution is being supported by 98 organizations ranging from the Agricultural Retailers Association, Alabama Coal Association, Alabama Petroleum Council, Alaska Miners Association and the American Coal Council to the Western Growers Association, Western States Petroleum Association, Wisconsin Petroleum Council and the Wyoming Mining Association – and including both Farm Bureau and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Those 98 organizations sent a letter to all members of the U.S. Senate Wednesday about the Murkowski resolution to “urge you to vote in favor of this resolution.” The letter also noted that “bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the House to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent EPA from regulating greenhouse gases.” (To read the letter to all senators, go to: [www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20100310H5.pdf](http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20100310H5.pdf).)

Twenty-eight governors sent a similar letter Wednesday to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). The letter warns that “The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has initiated efforts to impose greenhouse gas regulations that could be harmful to our economies at an especially critical time. As Governors and Chief Economic Developers of our States, we are gravely concerned about such regulation. . . We believe that EPA should offer input regarding complex energy and environmental policy initiatives, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but feel that these policies are best developed by elected representatives at the state and national level, not by a single federal agency.” (To read the letter to the House and Senate leaders, go to: [www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20100310H6.pdf](http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20100310H6.pdf).)

Commenting on the two letters, Murkowski said “These letters demonstrate the growing public opposition to EPA imposing backdoor climate regulations. As more and more stakeholders take a closer look at EPA’s attempts to regulate the emissions blamed for climate change, they’re recognizing that those actions will cause economic harm and job losses at a time we can afford neither. These governors, small businesses, agricultural organizations, trade associations and others are calling on Congress to stop EPA.”

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