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**Waxman/Markey Tax Bill Will Destroy the Quality of Life and Jobs of Many  
in West Virginia and Other Coal Producing States**

Perhaps the most destructive legislation in our Country's history will, as soon as next week, be voted on in the United States House of Representatives – the Waxman/Markey Tax Bill in the guise of addressing climate change. It will have adverse and lingering consequences for every American. It will raise the cost of electricity in our homes, the fuel for our cars, and the energy which produces our manufacturing jobs, with little or no environmental benefit. Further, independent experts estimate that it will cost Americans over \$2 trillion in just over 8 years. All Americans in the Midwest, South, and Rocky Mountain regions, and particularly in coal producing states, will be the most destructively affected because the climate change legislation will destroy the Nation's coal industry and the low cost electricity that it has provided to these regions for generations. Wealth will be transferred away from almost every state to the West Coast and New England.

The most abundant and by far least expensive energy source in our Country for generating electricity is coal. America's coal reserves rival the energy potential of Saudi Arabian oil. Unfortunately, the currently proposed climate change legislation in the House of

Representatives, the Waxman/Markey Bill, forces America to throw away this tremendous resource, and our low cost electricity with it.

The legislation discards coal and low cost energy with it by setting an unattainable cap on carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, with the first reductions due by 2012. Under the program, businesses that emit carbon dioxide would be required to purchase or obtain from the government special carbon dioxide credits. This carbon dioxide cap will force utilities to switch from lower cost coal to natural gas, nuclear power, or other more expensive energy sources. Reliable estimates show that this Bill will cost each American family at least \$3,000 more in energy costs each year, notwithstanding the \$2 trillion in cost to the economy in just 8 years. The chief executive of one of the nation's major utilities recently said it best in the Wall Street Journal stating, "the 25 states that depend on coal for more than 50% of their electricity . . . will have to shut down and replace the majority of their fossil fuel power plants as a result of the climate change legislation." This includes all Midwestern, Southern, and Rocky Mountain states, virtually all but the West Coast and New England states.

The supporters of this ill-conceived legislation point to two provisions that they claim will help coal. The first is that they give electric utilities free credits. However, those credits are worth millions, and the utilities will be free to sell the credits and use the proceeds to build more expensive natural gas or nuclear power plants, and not use our lowest cost fuel – coal. Second, the authors of the legislation invest money in carbon capture and storage technology, claiming that this will save coal jobs. But, this technology will not be commercially available for at least 15 – 20 years, long after the reductions are required in 2012 and long after our coal plants are

shut down and our manufacturing jobs are exported to China, India, and other countries. All of these countries have stated that they will not place any restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. China alone, which has surpassed the United States in carbon dioxide emissions, brings a new 500 megawatt coal-fired power plant on line every week. They will have low cost electricity, and America will massively export more jobs to them.

The Waxman/Markey Tax Bill is a 1201 page economic suicide note for West Virginia. Those members of the House who vote for it will be assuring long-term economic decline and the turning of West Virginia and other coal producing states into second rate economics.

Thankfully, it is not too late to tell our Representatives in Congress to kill this flawed Bill. We urge everyone to call your Congressman and ask him or her to vote No on the Waxman/Markey Climate (Really a Tax) Bill and support American jobs and our quality of life. He or she can be reached at (202) 225-3121.