

**Statement of
Rep. Henry A. Waxman
April 6, 2011**

Since the Clean Air Act was passed forty years ago, we have made steady progress in cleaning our air and protecting the public health and welfare.

Today, however, the Clean Air Act is under attack and our progress is threatened.

The Upton-Inhofe bill is a direct assault on the Clean Air Act. Its premise is that climate change is a hoax and carbon pollution does not endanger health and welfare.

But climate change is real; it is caused by pollution; and it is a serious threat to our health and welfare. We need to confront these realities, not put our heads in the sand.

American families count on the Environmental Protection Agency to keep our air and water clean. But this bill has politicians overruling the experts at the Environmental Protection Agency, and it exempts our biggest polluters from regulation.

If Upton-Inhofe is enacted, the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to control dangerous carbon pollution will be gutted.

That's why health experts like the American Lung Association are opposed to this legislation. They know this is a polluters' protection act. It is anti-science, anti-environment, and anti-health.

The Environmental Protection Agency made a scientific determination that carbon pollution endangers health and welfare. Our nation's top scientists at the National Academy of Sciences agree with this finding, as do scientists around the world.

Yet this legislation repeals that scientific finding. That's something no Congress has ever done before.

We need an energy policy based on science, not science fiction.

With oil at \$100 per barrel ... the Middle East in turmoil ... and a nuclear crisis in Japan, we urgently need clean energy policies. We need more vehicles that run on electricity, natural gas, and renewable fuels. We need more wind and solar power. And we need more energy efficiency.

What we need is to work together to develop energy policies that reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect the health of American families.

Instead, we are pursuing a divisive, partisan bill that takes us in exactly the wrong direction.

This extreme legislation won't pass in the Senate. And even if it did, it would be vetoed by President Obama. Its chances of enactment are near zero. It is a distraction from the imperative of developing new sources of energy that will break our dependence on foreign oil, protect our health, and preserve our environment.

Americans want clean air to breathe and sensible, science-based limits on carbon pollution.

I urge all members to oppose this legislation.