

From Senator David Vitter:

The Wrong Time for Climate Change Legislation

Dear Friend,

Despite the numerous challenges facing our economy, President Obama signaled this week that he will press Congress for quick action on climate change, ordering regulators to review California's bid to set its own strict emission standards for cars and trucks. Senator Boxer has also indicated that she plans on introducing climate change legislation by the end of the week.

A patchwork of emissions standards would further place American jobs in jeopardy as automakers are forced to spend billions to comply with dozens of emissions standards for a multitude of states. And the cap-and-trade or carbon tax systems that are central to most climate change proposals only further disadvantage U.S. businesses and force jobs overseas, perpetuating the current economic crisis.

At a time when businesses are taking every action practicable to survive what has become a serious recession, the President and Senate Democrats are making plans to change the financial and regulatory stability they operate under the exact opposite of what is necessary to stimulate the economy.

But with my seat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, I'm going to strongly oppose climate change legislation that negatively impacts U.S. workers and businesses or forces low-income families out of the market for gas and electricity.

I'll also be introducing legislation that will hopefully bring some honesty and debate regarding the realistic impacts of climate change mandates. I am hopeful my colleagues will open their eyes to the need for global participation, including that of India and China, so as not to disadvantage U.S. businesses.

We must also work to ensure that there are no increases in the cost to low-income or working class families; that we don't expand stresses on LIHEAP; that we don't force renewable energy that is non-competitive into the market; that we include cost-containment mechanisms for domestic industry; that we expand access to domestic carbon-based fuel resources; and that we harmonize state climate change laws and ensure federal preemption.

I'll bring these priorities consistently and often to the debate, so that climate change legislation does not further perpetuate the economic downturn. And I hope you'll keep in touch with me on your thoughts as these debates progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Vitter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and a distinct "V".

David Vitter
U.S. Senator