



Heart of the Arts

May 14, 2009

Congressman Henry Waxman, Chair,
House Energy and Commerce Committee
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Washington DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-2525

Nancy J. Chaney
Mayor

Congressman Ed Markey, Vice Chair
House Energy and Commerce Committee
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John Weber
Council President

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Wayne Krauss
Council Vice-President

RE: Role of Local Government in the American Clean Energy and Security Act

Dan Carscallen
Council Member

Dear Committee Members:

Tom Lamar
Council Member

The proposed cap-and-trade legislation being considered in to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate clean renewable energy is important to our nation's economic well-being, to environmental sustainability and to the health of our planet. Unfortunately, the current draft provides no resources for local energy efficiency efforts, such as those originally contemplated by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and funding for cities and counties for adaptation activities is extremely limited. Local governments are critical to the success of such an effort. Local policies promote green building, public transit, fleet efficiency and cleaner fuels. We urge you to include resources to support local government climate and energy actions.

Bill Lambert
Council Member

Walter M. Steed
Council Member

In Idaho, the proposed State Energy & Environment Development (SEED) funds would most likely be distributed among the most populous regions in the southern part of the state, but provide little, if any, assistance for smaller developing areas with fewer resources to promote sustainability and to prevent the problems we'd be trying to solve in larger populations centers. The City of Moscow is home to the University of Idaho, training ground for the leaders of tomorrow, who will discover and implement the solutions this legislation is attempting to address. Please give them and us the tools necessary to provide for their success.

Gary J. Riedner
City Supervisor

City of Moscow, City Hall
206 East 3rd Street
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Further, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG) as currently configured is available only to the 10 most populous cities in each state, seriously limiting its effectiveness as a means of promoting wide-spread energy conservation. Our city is the twelfth largest city in Idaho, which unfortunately makes Moscow ineligible for the program.

Website: www.ci.moscow.id.us
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We are pleased that the proposal under consideration at this time includes separate funding to be distributed to smaller cities and rural areas by means of a competitive process administered by the Office of Energy Research (OER) in collaboration with associations representing local governments, such as the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) and the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC). This proposal is imperative to promoting the policy of energy conservation to all of Idaho's citizens. We urge you to support the proposal in order to provide equitable treatment to these underserved populations, which collectively constitute significant contributors to energy and environmental challenges.

We ask that you consider promoting community-scale renewable energy approaches with the creation of Local Energy & Environmental Action Development (LEAD) funds, supported by carbon market proceeds, and directing a portion to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program for local governments, large and small.

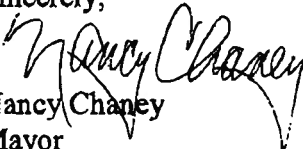
Public transit is an important component of such a program, and we urge your support of transportation efficiency planning and implementation. Not all communities have access to or are eligible for establishment of regional transit authorities or metropolitan planning organizations, however, so in circumstances such as ours, providing local flexibility in distribution of those resources is desirable.

We also urge that local governments become eligible for green jobs and worker transition assistance to create new green jobs and redevelop underutilized sites, including brownfields.

Finally, please pursue having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) include urban forestry, local green infrastructure, open space conservation, building efficiency, clean energy applications and other similar local projects to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions as eligible for offset credits for local governments like ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


 Nancy Chaney
 Mayor

M.S. Environmental Science, University of Idaho 2002

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c: Walt Minnick, Congressman, Idaho First District
 Ken Harwood, Executive Director, AIC
 Ken Rosenfeld, Policy Manager, EENR Committee, NLC

