

**Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**A Position Paper**  
**Energy Legislation – U.S. Congress**  
**July 2009**

Climate change legislation is moving forward in Congress, and decisions will soon be made that will directly impact your cost of electricity. In late June, the U. S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act. This 1,400 page bill attempts to lower the global temperature by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that various industries emit into the atmosphere. This includes the generation of electricity. The huge scope of this bill will have a far-reaching impact on our society and this nation's economy. The Waxman-Markey bill is now before the Senate. A draft of the Senate's version of the Waxman-Markey bill will likely be ready by late September.

As they consider climate change legislation, our U.S. Senators need to know you're asking them to develop legislation that is fair, affordable, and achievable.

**FAIR:** Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced. Some regions rely on more fossil-fueled generation, while other regions have hydro and intermittent wind generation to supplement their base-load generation. One region should not be penalized because some generation sources are available in some parts of the country but not in others.

**AFFORDABLE:** Any climate change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans. Electricity should not be priced so high that individuals living on low or fixed incomes can't keep their lights on or operate their air conditioning in the middle of summer in Florida. Even a small increase will be a hardship beyond measure for some folks.

**ACHIEVABLE:** Climate change legislation must be realistic and in sync with technology to ensure long-term success. Americans should not be asked to sacrifice our standard of living while China and India build one coal fired plant after another in order to power their growing economies.

Demand for electricity in America is growing. It is estimated that we will need 30% more electricity by 2030. The rising cost of fuel combined with the rising cost of building new generation mean that electric rates will increase even if we do nothing to address climate change. If Americans want to keep electricity costs reasonable, Congress and this nation's electric cooperatives must work together to ensure climate change legislation is fair, affordable and achievable.

Our U.S. Senators are drafting climate change legislation now, and you can impact the outcome. We must ensure that when they vote on a bill, it's done with America's best interest in mind. Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to make your voice heard, or contact your senators directly.

**Mel Martinez (R)**  
356 Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Ph: (202) 224-3041; Fax: (202) 228-5171  
Jacksonville office: (904) 398-8586  
Web site: [martinez.senate.gov](http://martinez.senate.gov)

**Bill Nelson (D)**  
716 Senate Hart Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Ph: (202) 224-5274; Fax: (202) 228-2183  
Jacksonville office: (904) 346-4500; Fax: (904) 346-4506  
Web site: [billnelson.senate.gov](http://billnelson.senate.gov)