



# Unions for Jobs And the Environment

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## Member Unions

Brotherhood of Locomotive  
Engineers

International Brotherhood  
of Boilermakers,  
Iron Ship Builders,  
Blacksmiths, Forgers  
and Helpers

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers

International Brotherhood  
of Teamsters

Marine Engineers Beneficial  
Association

Transportation • Communications  
International Union

United Food and Commercial  
Workers International Union

United Mine Workers  
of America

United Transportation Union

Utility Workers Union  
of America

## President

Bill Cunningham

September 9, 2003

Dear Senator:

Mandatory emission reduction requirements for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases would create much higher energy prices for consumers and put the economy at risk, while providing little or no tangible benefit for the global environment. We therefore urge you to vote against S.139, *The Climate Stewardship Act of 2003*.

A number of promising voluntary programs have been initiated by the energy industry, which have proven effective in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions. *Voluntary* programs and innovative ideas for market-based incentives offer a way to find more creative and sustainable means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to perfect new technologies as they come on line.

Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is a special challenge because, unlike conventional pollutants, there are no off-the-shelf technologies available for this purpose. At this time, the only means available to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> is to curtail overall energy use, or to dramatically reduce consumption of domestic coal and other fossil fuels.

To achieve any meaningful internationally equitable and sustainable environmental effect, worldwide cooperation is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Any long-term efforts to stabilize or otherwise affect atmospheric concentrations requires that all countries be part of an effort to limit or reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including developing economies, and those countries which have greatly expanded their manufacturing activity largely at the expense of U.S. jobs.

In a June 2003 analysis, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) finds that S.139 would increase electricity prices 46 percent and gasoline prices by 27 percent (40 cents per gallon).

The effect of S.139 on coal, America's cheapest and most abundant fuel, is staggering. Coal prices would increase 485 percent. Natural gas would go up a whopping 79 percent and oil prices would increase 31 percent. Bottlenecks in natural gas supplies could drive these prices even higher. These higher energy prices would have serious consequences for jobs and incomes of American workers.

It is vital to the health of the U.S. economy that the diversity of fuel use be maintained. Currently, most electricity is generated with coal, followed by nuclear, natural gas, and hydro.

We believe that it is essential to maintain the role played by these fuels, while making efforts to improve energy efficiency, increase the viability of renewable energy supplies, and to foster and implement reasonable and practicable efforts for energy conservation on all fronts.

We are concerned that the burden created by S.139 would fall disproportionately on coal, thereby making the economy more dependent on other fuels, particularly natural gas – a commodity already experiencing substantial price escalations. Viewed in this context, S.139 is simply a bad idea. The natural gas distribution system is currently inadequate and natural gas is experiencing considerable price volatility, with little evidence of adequate and substantial correction.

Passage of S.139 would be tantamount to adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, which labor has consistently opposed. The AFL-CIO resolution addressing this matter is attached.

For these reasons, we believe that S.139, which would mandate reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>, or legislation that would include CO<sub>2</sub> within the Clean Air Act should be rejected. It is the view of UJAE member unions that such measures can only burden the process and will slow down the introduction of beneficial new clean air technologies while costing Americans jobs and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham".

Bill Cunningham, President  
Unions for Jobs and the Environment