

## Climate Change Bill Writing: Some things to think about:

### General Political Stance:

- ⑩ Does your senator support increased or decreased regulation in the economy?
- ⑩ Who are the major contributors to your senator's last political campaign? You need to make these people happy.
- ⑩ Democratic viewpoint: It is the EPA's job to regulate greenhouse gasses. Democrats usually push for more regulation, saying business is irresponsible and driven by profit. Therefore, regulations need to be driven by a strong federal government.
- ⑩ Republican viewpoint: The federal government is too large and intrusive. When it tries to regulate businesses, profits go down, making businesses less able to provide raises to their employees or create more jobs. Overall production will decrease, making everyone's lives worse. Furthermore, the private sector can regulate itself far more efficiently and effectively.
- ⑩ If you want further regulations, how are you going to pay for them? Will you expand funding for the EPA? Will you take money away from the EPA and give it to businesses to incentivize reduction in greenhouse gasses?

*How will your bill approach a solution? Here are some angles to consider:*

### Economic Incentives:

- ⑩ Is the carbon tax a good idea? Did your senator support it? (Carbon tax just basically taxes businesses for the amount of pollution – CO<sub>2</sub> – they emit) If you pursue a carbon tax, who will regulate it?
- ⑩ Is cap and trade a good idea? Did your senator support it? (Cap and trade puts a limit on the amount of pollution output (CO<sub>2</sub>) a business can emit. If you emit less, you can sell your 'extra' rights to pollute to a factory that pollutes more. This way, there are economic incentives in place to encourage the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>.)

### Alternative energy:

- ⑩ Should the government increase subsidies (money given) to private businesses that pursue alternative energy technologies?
- ⑩ If so, what businesses will you support (wind, solar, hydro power...)?
- ⑩ Where will the money come from? (tax on carbon emissions, anywhere else?)
- ⑩ Alternative vehicles – how could the government better support companies that manufacture alternative-energy vehicles? How could the government support consumers who want to buy these vehicles, but find them too expensive?

### Lifestyle Choice: Can/should the US government incentivize positive lifestyle choices?

- ⑩ Should the government pay to expand our public transportation system? (trains, buses, trams) Where would this money come from?
- ⑩ Multi-modal transportation: Could the government incentives bike paths, walking trails, ect.. to reduce the demand for fuel?

### Waste Management: Can/should the government manage our waste differently?

- ⑩ Encourage composting?
- ⑩ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – can we better incentivize our recycling habits? Pay for cans, cash deposit on cans and bottles (ex: Michigan has a 10 cent deposit on every can/bottle sold)