



May 13, 2010

To: ASA Board, State Presidents and State Executives

From: Rob Joslin

Subject: Update on Climate Change Legislation

Resolution to Disapprove of the EPA's Regulation of Greenhouse Gases

The Senate will soon consider S. J. Res. 26, a resolution to disapprove the regulation of greenhouse gases by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Air Act. ASA has previously expressed support for the Murkowski Resolution and, along with state soybean associations, signed onto a letter of support in January.

The Murkowski resolution disapproving EPA moving forward on regulating greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions may be voted on next week. ASA and other farm groups will be sending a letter to every Senator urging them to vote in favor of the resolution. While we are hopeful the resolution of disapproval will pass the Senate to put the Senate on record, it is uncertain whether House leaders will permit it or a similar resolution to be scheduled for a vote in the House.

Kerry-Lieberman Climate Change & Energy Legislation Introduced

Yesterday, Senators Kerry and Lieberman introduced their long-awaited climate change bill, which is receiving a lot of media attention. However, ASA Washington staff does not believe it is likely to have sufficient support to move forward in the Senate this year. Attached is a short summary of the bill prepared by ASA.

ASA has provided the statement below in response to media inquires:

"The American Soybean Association continues to have significant concerns with climate change proposals and their impact on agriculture, including the just unveiled Kerry-Lieberman bill. ASA remains concerned with the impacts that could result from enactment of climate change legislation that unilaterally subjects U.S. farmers, manufacturers and other businesses to emissions caps and increased energy costs without appropriate measures to ensure that the U.S. maintains economic competitiveness.

"Additionally, while the Kerry-Lieberman bill begins to recognize the threat of climate change legislation resulting in the afforestation of productive farmland, it doesn't go far enough to prevent it. ASA believes that strong safeguards need to be included to ensure that U.S. farmland, which is the most productive land in the world, is not idled or afforested in response to carbon sequestration incentives.

"Last fall ASA issued a paper outlining its concerns about and priorities for any climate change legislation that may be considered, and these concerns and priorities remain paramount today."

ASA's detailed position paper outlining concerns and issues for climate change legislation is available at <http://www.soygrowers.com/policy/ClimateChange1109.pdf>.

The ASA Climate Change Task Force is planning to hold a conference call next Thursday, May 20, to update Task Force members on the prospects going forward.