



Welcome to the Call

Saturday, November 6th, 2010

Group Meetings from 9:45 AM – 12:15 PM **Pacific**
Call from 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM **Pacific** (1:00 PM EST)

Call in number: 1-866-642-1665 pass code 440699#



Guest Speaker Representative Bob Filner

Congressman Bob Filner was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1992. He ranks 75 of 435 and serves as Chairman of the Veteran's Affairs Committee. Congressman Filner is a friend of Citizens Climate Lobby, having been the leader on a Congressional Letter to President Obama asking the President to go to Copenhagen, and to support 350 ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere. Congressman Filner has taken several courageous stands for rights of Veterans, even being arrested protecting Veteran's rights. As a young man he was a Freedom Rider, standing up for civil rights. In 1960, he was arrested and jailed for several months in the Mississippi State Penitentiary. We are honored to have such a courageous member of Congress as our friend and speaker on the call.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Schedule meetings with members of Congress. Use the Laser Talk (below) to illustrate the positive impact on the economy that making the transition to renewable energy will have.
- 2) Designate someone in your group to pitch an editorial to your local newspaper about carbon fee and dividend that ties in to the climate meeting in Cancun. (See script below) Have them follow up by sending our [current editorial packet](#).
- 3) Practice the Laser Talk before leaving today (really this time).

The economics of pricing carbon

VOLUNTEER: Congressman, by putting a steadily-increasing fee on carbon-based fuels, we can make the transition to clean energy and lower the level of greenhouse gases that are causing climate change.

CONGRESSMAN: Yes, but I'm concerned that this will be a drag on our economy and that we'll lose jobs we can't afford to lose.

VOLUNTEER: As it turns out, in making the transition to clean, energy, we'll add far more jobs than we'll lose. On **page 27¹** of our report, "**Building a Green Economy,**" the **Department of Energy** estimates that 20 percent of the nation's energy will come from wind by 2030. Under that scenario, **500,000 jobs would be supported.** And it's important to note that the Energy Department's estimate doesn't factor in putting a price on carbon. If energy from wind is made cheaper than coal, that figure will be much higher than 500,000. By comparison the **coal industry supports 174,000 jobs² nationwide.**

CONGRESSMAN: But if we put a price on carbon, won't some sections of the country get hit harder than others?

VOLUNTEER: You're talking about the so-called **regional disparities** between heavy coal users and other areas. Let me show you **Page 7³** of our report, which cites a study by the **American Enterprise Institute** that looked at the regional effect of pricing carbon. It found that the differences were very modest, **less than 1 percent.** Under a fee and dividend approach, **adjustments can be made** in the dividend, if need be, to account for these differences.

CONGRESSMAN: But renewable energy – wind, solar and so-forth – can't possibly supply all our energy needs. We still need coal to make the electricity that powers our economy.

VOLUNTEER: Actually, we have the clean-energy resources to meet the demand. **Page 38⁴** of the report cites the **Department of Energy**, which says that three states – **North Dakota, Kansas and Texas** – have enough wind capacity to satisfy not just national electricity needs, but national energy needs. The report also notes, on **page 34⁵**, that if we build out the **smart grid**, we'll be able to deliver renewable energy from one area of the country to another.

¹ Page reference is for print copy of the report. Reference in PDF version is on page 20.

² Page 29 in print version. Page 22 in PDF.

³ Page 5 in PDF.

⁴ Page 28 in PDF.

⁵ Page 26 in PDF.

CCL pitch for editorials this month

The U.N. climate talks in Cancun begin at the end of November. This is a time when newspapers may want to weigh in with an editorial on climate change and the status of legislation in the U.S. If so, we want them to tell Congress to get to work in January on a carbon fee and dividend bill.

What you need to do:

1. Read the editorial packet and familiarize yourself with the contents.
2. Call your newspaper's editorial department and ask to speak to the editorial board member who writes about environmental issues.
3. When you reach this person, introduce yourself as a volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby who lives in [YOUR CITY]. Ask if they have a minute and if this is a good time to talk. Here's the pitch:

I have a suggestion for a timely editorial on something that will be in the news pretty soon. At the end of this month, U.S. negotiators will go to climate talks in Cancun with nothing to bring to the table because Congress failed to enact climate legislation this year. And so another year will pass without a global treaty to stop climate change. We're running out of time on this. The world is waiting for America to lead on climate change, and it's time for us to step up. We can do this AND help our own economy if the next Congress puts a fee on fossil fuels and returns the revenue to all Americans.⁶ Would you consider writing an editorial in support of this solution? I have some materials I can send you that you might find helpful. Is there a time I can check back to see if you have any questions?

4. Thank them for their time, follow up and monitor the newspaper.

⁶ Might want to localize the pitch with a reference to your Senator or Representative: "Congressman Smith would be the perfect one to lead on this because he sits on the Ways and Means Committee."