

New Hampshire Businesses Call for National Climate Policy

Senators Gregg and Sununu Urged to Support the Climate Security Act and Strengthen New Hampshire's Economy

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Manchester, NH (May 28, 2008) – Today in Manchester, on the banks of the historic Merrimack River, representatives from a cross section of New Hampshire's business community urged Senators Gregg and Sununu to demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change.

Nine business leaders came together to announce their support for the Climate Security Act, which the U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on the first week of June. They called on Senators Gregg and Sununu to join them in supporting the legislation, which will help Granite State businesses develop the next generation of technologies needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, generate clean energy, and power job growth here in New Hampshire.

Today's speakers pointed out that in addition to addressing the impacts of global warming on New Hampshire's natural resources, the Climate Security Act will help the state's economy - not only by easing our addiction to expensive fossil fuels, but also by creating demand for new jobs in designing, building, installing, and maintaining clean energy technologies and solutions.

Business leaders are the latest addition to a growing chorus of voices in New Hampshire – ranging from sportsmen to local elected officials – calling on Congress to pass climate change legislation. Despite this, Senators Gregg and Sununu have not yet signaled their support of the bipartisan Climate Security Act. With a vote less than a week away, local business owners hope today's announcement will give the Senators the final push they need to get on board with legislation and help lead a clean energy revolution here in New Hampshire.

Statements by clean energy business leaders:

"The Climate Security Act will promote the development of clean and efficient technologies which would be a boon for New Hampshire and the region," said **Jim Grady, President of LighTech, Inc.** and member of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Green Committee. "It's important for the economic and technological development of New Hampshire that Sen. Gregg and Sununu get on board and vote in favor of this act."

"As a developer of clean renewable power plants that utilize a portion of New Hampshire's vast biomass resources, we are taking steps to do our part in this effort, but more needs to be done," said **Mel Liston, President of Clean Power Development.** "It is imperative that Senators Gregg and Sununu support the Climate Security Act when it comes to the Senate floor in June."

"Heating with wood pellets offers consumers in the Northeast the opportunity to half their heating bills, while reducing their carbon footprint substantially," said **Jon Strimling, President of PelletSales.com in Goffstown.** "Now is the time for prompt and aggressive public policy measures to cut carbon emissions. What this country needs is a level playing field, which forces technologies to compete to bring forward the best possible solutions."

Scott Nichols, President of TARM USA, said “I urge Senators Gregg and Sununu to support a strong Climate Security Act. Funds that will become available as a result of this bill can quickly and easily be put to use encouraging the growth of biomass heating here in New Hampshire and across the United States.”

“The Climate Security Act will expand the use of renewable energy systems in this country and the state of New Hampshire, while promoting the creation of quality, sustainable jobs in the manufacturing, engineering, construction, and service sectors,” said **Mark Weissflog of KW Management, Inc.** “If it makes cents *and* sense, why are we not doing more now?”

“We see daily what the rest of the world is doing in implementing programs that will strike a blow against global warming – plus, have immensely positive health, job and economic impacts”, said **Jim Callihan, President of RenewableEnergyWorld.com.** “None could have come to pass without proactive, visionary leadership from government.”

The sense of urgency to address global warming was heard clearly from those whose businesses – and indeed, livelihoods – depend on New Hampshire’s quality natural resources and consistent seasons.

Statements regarding what’s at stake for New Hampshire’s tourism and natural resource dependant business community:

“New Hampshire’s north country is not only particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming, it is also well-positioned to be a part of the solution by providing clean, renewable energy sources,” said **Janice Crawford, Executive Director of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce.** “The Climate Security Act will provide a tremendous economic opportunity for New Hampshire, specifically here in the Mount Washington Valley, and we strongly encourage Senators Gregg and Sununu to support it.”

“Climate change has already affected my business,” said **Sue Proulx, owner of Wildlife Taxidermy and Sports Center** in Manchester. “No ice, like we had in the winters of 2006 and 2007, means no ice fishermen. And degraded fish and wildlife habitat means fewer hunters and anglers stocking up for their next trip. I wonder how long businesses like ours will be able to survive in New Hampshire if global warming goes unchecked.”

The Climate Security Act would establish a cap-and-trade system that cuts carbon dioxide emissions to level scientists say is necessary to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. Revenues generated by the program would be used to promote the development of new low-emissions and efficient technologies, helping low- and middle-income families with energy costs, and preserving America’s natural resources.

“A strong national climate law will be a major business opportunity for our state, triggering creation of thousands of new, high-paying jobs and reduction of consumer energy costs almost across the board,” said Jim Rubens, **venture investor and past NH GOP platform committee chair.** “We can stop the hemorrhage of jobs and dollars from our economy to pay for fossil fuels -- an estimated \$ 5.5 billion dollars this year -- none of which we produce in-state.

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