

# REPORT CARD

## The KERRY - LIEBERMAN BILL a.k.a. "The American Power Act"

### Climate Reality Check

On May 12, 2010, Senators John Kerry and Joseph Lieberman released a draft bill that aims, in part, to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases driving the climate change crisis. The Climate Reality Check coalition (CRC) developed a set of seven principles which we believe should guide U.S. climate and energy policy. This report card grades the Kerry-Lieberman (K-L) bill on how well it lives up to these principles. *For more information, see [ClimateRealityCheck.org](http://ClimateRealityCheck.org).*

CATEGORY	CRC PRINCIPLE	ASSESSMENT	GRADE
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets</b>	RAPIDLY REDUCE POLLUTION. Set an economy-wide cap on greenhouse emissions that is consistent with the best available science and that can be ratcheted down as necessary.	The bill sets greenhouse gas emissions limitations that are inconsistent with the best available science and fall very short of what is required to effectively mitigate global climate change.	<b>F</b>
<b>Offsets and Other Loopholes</b>	REJECT LOOPHOLES. Reject offsets and other loopholes that prevent pollution reductions from taking place in the U.S.	The bill allows polluters to bypass verifiable domestic fossil fuel emissions reductions for well over a decade, precisely when they are most needed; the quantity of offsets provided is likely to severely erode domestic emissions targets through the life of the bill.	<b>F</b>
<b>Holding Polluters Accountable</b>	REJECT POLLUTER GIVEAWAYS. Big polluters should pay when they pollute, not be handed giveaways.	The bill is a bonanza for polluters. It would shower billions on the dirty energy industries of the past, including coal, nuclear and oil, as well as agribusiness.	<b>D-</b>
<b>Responsible Energy Policies</b>	INVEST IN CLEAN ENERGY. Invest in the development and deployment of abundant clean energy and energy efficiency.	The bill encourages a business-as-usual scenario of dirty energy instead of driving our much-needed and wanted transition to clean energy.	<b>C</b>
<b>EPA and State Regulatory Authority</b>	PRESERVE EXISTING TOOLS. Preserve the Clean Air Act's requirement that harmful global warming pollution be reduced, and preserve states' authority to implement solutions on their own.	The bill eliminates most of the Clean Air Act's powerful, cost-effective, and proven tools which could be used to achieve real, immediate reductions in greenhouse pollution today. The bill also constrains state authority to develop market-based emissions reduction programs.	<b>D</b>
<b>Domestic Economic Justice</b>	PROTECT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. Protect low- and middle-income families and vulnerable communities through stable, predictable, and transparent carbon pricing, consumer protections and dividends.	The bill, while providing significant compensation for the lowest-income consumers, unfortunately puts energy utilities in charge of most consumer protections, doesn't provide enough green jobs investment, and opens the door for pollution trading schemes.	<b>C-</b>
<b>International Climate Justice</b>	LIVE UP TO OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. The United States must be a leader in supporting and funding effective and just international climate solutions.	The bill falls well short of addressing the major international policy and funding needs with respect to climate change; it does not live up to practical, diplomatic, national security, or ethical requirements.	<b>D</b>

#### The following groups contributed to this report card:

- 350.org
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- Corporate Ethics International
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenpeace
- International Rivers
- NC WARN (North Carolina Waste Awareness and Reduction Network)
- Public Citizen
- Rainforest Action Network
- Sustainable Energy & Economy Network, Institute for Policy Studies
- Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
- United Methodist Women