



1Sky Guide: Organizing Your Rally

1Sky Guide: Organizing Your Rally, June 19th

Thank you for signing up to organize a rally on June 19th in front of your representative's district office! The purpose of your event is to encourage your representative to strengthen the American Clean Energy and Security Act, currently being considered in the US House of Representatives. By having a public presence, you will ensure that your representative and your surrounding community members hear your message loud and clear. To cap off your action, you can hand deliver a 1Sky Lobby Packet to the office.

You may be asking yourself, "Why June 19th?" Currently several House committees are marking up the bill, which is expected to come up for a House floor vote by the middle to end of June. We must ensure that the bill is strong, so let's do everything we can!

This is a step-by-step guide to ensure the success and visibility of your public event. Voicing your concerns to your representative is both a right and a powerful tool as a constituent. You do not have to be an expert in climate science or energy policy to raise your voice.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with 1Sky's talking points (available at <http://www.1sky.org/resources>). If you have any questions, feel free get in touch with us at congress@1sky.org.

Before the Event

1. GET YOUR MEMBER'S INFORMATION

Find out who your representative is, as well as the addresses of his or her local district office(s), at <http://www.congressmerge.com/online/db/index.htm>. Pick the office that is most convenient for you, as well as a convenient time for you and your community.

2. RECRUIT FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Invite your family, friends and members of your community to participate in the rally with you! The more diverse voices you bring to the table, the more likely your representative and surrounding community will listen. Bring your faith leader, your doctor, and local business owners! We need to demonstrate that *everyone* is calling for action on climate change. Power in numbers is important, so start recruiting today! To recruit send e-mails, make phone calls and place flyers in local businesses.

3. DOWNLOAD AND PRINT MATERIALS

All materials can be found at the link below:

<http://www.1sky.org/resources>

- *Example Placards* - Use these placards to visually represent the need for a strong bill. Sample slogans: "Clean Energy Now," "Make Polluters Pay," "Protect Our Climate," etc.
- *Leaflets* - Have people that attend the rally and those that pass by on the streets call the office urging your representative to strengthen the bill. Everyone should make the call and pass out leaflets to get as many calls in as possible!
- *1Sky Lobby Packet* - During the event, send in a small group of people to deliver this packet to the receptionist.

Make sure you have plenty of signs or placards. You can also bring poster board and markers to the event in case people would like to make their own.

During the Event

1. BE POSITIVE AND ENERGETIC

Regularly remind those who show up how important it is that they are there and making a difference. These events should draw in media, so it's important to keep up a good vibe and ensure that everyone is enjoying themselves.

2. HAND OUT LEAFLETS

Be sure to hand out leaflets to passersby so they can call the office to generate additional pressure!

3. SEND IN A DELEGATION

Once people have arrived and you are able to sustain a high level of energy, send in a small group of people to deliver the 1Sky Lobby Packet to the office. This is a very simple action.

- Respectfully walk in the office.
- Introduce yourself to the receptionist and ask if your representative is there (if not, than talk directly to the receptionist). Tell them that you are rallying outside for bold climate solutions and that you'd now like the deliver the message in person. *Remember!* You are the best advocate for why your representative should take bold action on climate change.
- Tell him or her that you are here to ask the representative to strengthen the ACES bill in following key ways: (*see talking points below for more information!*)
 - **Ensure More Clean Energy for America:** *By increasing the Renewable Electricity Standard*
 - **Hold Polluters Accountable:** *By restoring authority to the EPA to mandate cleaner technology for power plants.*
 - **Create More Clean Energy Jobs for America:** *Limit allocations to polluting industries, like Big Oil and Dirty Coal, and instead supplement allowance accounts that would bolster green job development and protection of vulnerable communities.*
- Ask the representative/office if they will commit to strengthening the bill.
- Ask for a business card so that you can follow-up with them.
- Politely thank the representative/office for their time.

4. DOCUMENT YOUR RALLY

It's critical that we demonstrate the power of the climate movement through these events across the country – we can't do it without you. Please take pictures and report back to us directly after your event to let us know how it went and what came out of it:

<http://www.1sky.org/MyRally>

This information will strengthen the campaign and our impact on Capitol Hill. Also please send the pictures you took to congress@1sky.org

We also encourage you to write a blog to tell us about your event and experience to share with the rest of the 1Sky community.

5. FOLLOW UP

Make sure to thank everyone who attended and capture their contact information. It is important that you are able to get in touch with everyone when future actions are needed.

6. KEEP THE MOVEMENT MOVING

Sign up at <http://local.1sky.org> to become a Climate Precinct Captain and continue organizing in your state and district. We'll give you all the tools you need!

1Sky Context and Talking Points for ACES strengthening strategy

NOTE: Our allies at Environment America took the lead in creating this document, which we at 1Sky have refined to reflect our strategy.

Background/message

We have enormous untapped power. Across America, we can harness the wind and sun to power our future and leave dirty, dangerous energy behind. We can hold polluters accountable for their global warming emissions to secure our future and strengthen our economy. This is the American agenda right now, and it will make our nation healthier, safer and more secure.

Given the high priority that President Obama has put on transforming our economy with clean energy and the urgent scientific imperative to reduce global warming pollution, it is encouraging to see that the U.S. Congress, under the leadership of Chairmen Waxman and Markey, is making progress and building momentum to address these critical issues.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act recently passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee sets up a framework for transitioning to clean energy and curbing global warming. It sets a first-ever cap on global warming pollution and contains important and effective standards to increase energy efficiency in buildings.

We all agree that now is the time to replace the dirty, polluting energy sources of the past with the clean, homegrown energy sources of today. In addition to reducing air pollution and limiting the U.S. contribution to global warming, creating a clean energy economy will increase our security and help put Americans back to work in clean green jobs.

But to deliver on the promise that clean energy holds to transform our economy, put millions of Americans back to work, and solve global warming, this bill is just a first step. Big Oil, Dirty Coal, and other polluters, and the members of Congress who do their bidding, have weakened the bill in ways that will delay the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy and miss the opportunity to make a real transition in the nation's energy policy. Given the huge opportunity before us, the science on global warming, and the dire state of our economy, these are delays that neither the environment nor the economy can afford.

The nation's biggest polluters should clean up rather than being allowed to buy their way out of long-overdue reductions in pollution. If polluters continue polluting, they should be required to pay for their pollution and its adverse impact. The nation should set bold goals and require a significant increase in the use of truly clean and renewable energy over business-as-usual. And, our nation should make much greater investments in energy efficiency and green transportation, which would create jobs and save money for consumers, businesses, and the government.

Now is the time for bold and meaningful action on clean energy and global warming. We look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Goal of meetings with legislative members

We want to urge our legislative champions to strengthen the American Clean Energy and Security Act when it comes to a full vote of the House.

We want members to understand – and believe for themselves

We can do more to create clean energy jobs in the context of this bill. This is not yet the strong clean energy jobs bill that we all believe we need and can pass, and we're disappointed by all the ways in which it's been weakened through the process thus far.

The biggest problems with the bill are as follows:

- The short-term cap on global warming pollution was weakened from a 20% reduction below 2005 levels by 2020 to a 17% reduction.
- The bill strips EPA of its authority to regulate global warming pollution from stationary sources that are capped under the bill, including power plants.
- The bill allows 2 billion tons a year of offsets – far more than the reductions required each year until almost 2040. Offsets result in less-certain emission reductions and delay the transition to cleaner technology.
- The renewable electricity standard was gutted to the point that it provides no new renewable energy over business as usual projections and uses efficiency as a offset for new renewables instead of requiring a separate efficiency resource standard.
- A total of 66 percent of the allowances are given to industry – electric and natural gas utilities, automakers, oil refiners, and manufacturers – in the early years of the program; these free allowances generally do not phase out until 2030.

As we've discussed, we will do everything we can to strengthen the bill. Those on the other side have made clear their intention to continue their efforts to weaken the bill.

- Representatives Dingell (MI) and Boucher (VA) have stated their intention to further lower the short term cap to 14% by 2020.
- Representative Peterson (MN) is working to weaken environmental protections for the use of biomass.
- Representative Green (TX) has said he wants even more subsidies for oil refineries under the bill.

The priority for us right now is strengthening the bill. We understand the critical need to move a bill this year and believe Chairmen Waxman and Markey have done incredible work in the committee, but given the level of concessions we believe that the fight right now is to strengthen this bill and make sure it delivers renewable energy, a safe and healthy environment, and a speedy transition to the clean energy economy.

Our coalition

1Sky is working with a broad coalition of groups who have the same priorities in terms of strengthening the bill. A large coalition of national environmental groups, businesses, labor, community organizations, activist, and faith networks are coming together to make sure that this bill does more.

Strengthening

Deliver Renewable Energy – Mandates on clean renewable energy have been the principal driver of clean power in America. It is this investment in renewable energy that is the economic engine and job driver for the clean energy economy. The President supports a 25% by 2025 renewable electricity standard. The initial draft Waxman-Markey bill would have required 20% renewables by 2020. That has now been watered down to a bill that would require a minimum of 12% with an additional 8% from efficiency. With other weakening to the definitions and standards in the bill, an analysis by UCS suggests it would create no additional renewable energy beyond the 9.9% that is predicted by the Energy Information Agency if we just left things as they are. The American Wind Energy Association estimates that this weakening could leave at least 100,000 jobs on the cutting room floor for the wind industry alone and warns that weak renewables policy will drive investment to other countries.

We need to significantly strengthen the renewable electricity standard in the bill. Our proposal is to increase its requirements to a 30% combined energy efficiency and renewable energy standard by 2020. The improved standard would require a 17% renewable and 10% efficiency requirement by 2020, and allow an additional 3% of the standard to be met by either renewable energy or efficiency at the discretion of the states.

Continue Accountability and Oversight for Polluters – The bill would repeal EPA’s authority to set source-specific global warming emission performance standards for stationary sources that are capped under the bill. In place of that authority, the bill would establish performance standards only for new coal-fired power plants and those standards don’t phase in for many years.

We should restore backstop authority to the EPA to regulate power plants under the Clean Air Act in the event of a determination by EPA or the scientific review process that the United States is likely to fail to meet the emissions standards laid out in the bill.

Provide Clean Green Jobs for America – The bill gives 66 percent of the allowances to industry – electric and natural gas utilities, automakers, oil refiners, and manufacturers – in the early years of the program; these free allowances generally do not phase out until 2030.

We should reduce allocations to polluting oil companies and merchant coal polluting industries in order to supplement allowance accounts that would bolster green job development and protection of vulnerable communities. Specifically, we should shave allocations from fossil fuel producers equivalent to 6-10 percent of overall allowance value and redistribute to:

- The State Energy and Environment Development Accounts for investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- The Green Jobs Act to ensure the skilled workers necessary to rebuild and repower this nation;

- A Renewable Energy Products Manufacturing Incentives Program to provide direct grants and loans to ramp up the domestic manufacture of clean and efficient energy components and systems;
- International adaptation to assure assistance for vulnerable communities displaced or injured by the effects of global warming; and
- Wildlife and U.S. adaptation accounts.

Weakening amendments

Finally, we expect an effort on the House floor to roll back the already weakened 2020 target for reducing global warming pollution, among others.

The ask

-Will you work with us to strengthen ACES?

-Will you vote against an amendment to weaken the 2020 global warming pollution reduction target?

Q&A

Q: What do Henry Waxman and Ed Markey think of this?

A: We have been keeping the Chairmen fully apprised of what we are doing and they have said that they are open to changes and are okay with members working to strengthen the bill as it goes forward. The agreements in the committee did not extend beyond the committee, and so while we do not want to blow up the bill, we are looking to restore some of the key provisions that we know will be critical in helping to build the clean energy economy.

Q: Could you support the bill if it is not strengthened?

A: Yes you should support it. We want the bill to pass out of the house so that we have chances to strengthen it in the Senate.