



The House vs. the Senate in the U.S. Congress: who to target?

With a new President and Congress and a critical round of international climate talks coming up in Copenhagen in December, 2009 is the year to pass bold climate and energy legislation. Key House Representatives are drafting climate legislation in the Energy and Commerce Committee as we speak with a draft expected by early April, and the Senate will take up the issue later this year. The April 4-19 congressional recess gives us an unprecedented opportunity to come together and influence this process.

Every member of Congress is important when it comes to the climate debate – even those who oppose us (they need to hear from us so they are not empowered to support an obstructionist agenda). Since climate legislation will be moving in the House more immediately in the near term, we encourage you to prioritize meeting with your Representative (for the most part).

However, in some states Senators really need to hear from us as well. See below for a list of states with key Senators to guide you in prioritizing your targets. Ideally you'll be able to meet with everyone – both your Senators and your Representative! You can find contact information for your local congressional offices at <http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/index.htm>.

Thank you for teaming up with us for action in April. If you have any questions about your members of Congress, please email congress@1sky.org or call Adi at 301-270-4550 ext. 224. We look forward to being in touch!

Arkansas: Democratic Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor appear to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, Democrat Mike Ross (AR04) is a critical swing member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a co-chair of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog caucus. Other potential swing votes in Arkansas include Democrats Marion Berry (AR01) and Vic Snyder (AR02).

Florida: Republican Senator Mel Martinez is a potential swing vote. On the House side, Democrat Kathy Castor (FL11) is a potential climate champion on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and freshman Democrats Alan Grayson (FL08) and Susan Kosmas (FL24) are potential champions as well. Potential swing votes include Democrat Allen Boyd (FL02) and Republicans Vern Buchanan (FL13), Tom Rooney (FL16) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL18).

Indiana: Democratic Senator Evan Bayh has expressed concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, Democrat Baron Hill (IN09) is a critical swing member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Other potential swing votes in Indiana include Democrats Peter Visclosky (IN01), Joe Donnelly (IN02) and Brad Ellsworth (IN08).

Maine: Republican Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe are both absolutely critical votes on a climate bill. They are both considered moderates, and their support will probably be necessary to advance a climate bill in the Senate.

Michigan: Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow appear to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, Democrats Bart Stupak (MI01) and John Dingell (MI15) and Republican Fred Upton (MI06) are swing members of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Other potential swing votes in

Michigan include Republican Vern Ehlers (MI03) and Democrats Dale Kildee (MI05), Mark Schauer (MI07), Gary Peters (MI09), Sander Levin (MI12), and Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI13).

Missouri: Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill appears to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. House Democrat Ike Skelton (MO04) is also a potential swing vote.

Nebraska: Democratic Senator Ben Nelson appears to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy.

New Mexico: Democratic Senator Jeff Bingaman, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, wants to address climate but is likely to take a cautious approach, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, freshman Democrats Martin Heinrich (NM01), Harry Teague (NM02) and Ben Lujan (NM03) are potential swing votes.

North Dakota: Democratic Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad appear to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. House Democrat Earl Pomeroy is also a potential swing vote.

Ohio: Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown appears to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, Democrats Betty Sutton (OH13) and Zack Space (OH18) are both potential swing votes on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Other potential swing votes in Ohio include Democrats Steve Driehaus (OH01), Charles Wilson (OH06), Marcy Kaptur (OH09), Marcia Fudge (OH11), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH15) and John Bocchieri (OH16) and Republicans Steve Austria (OH07), Patrick Tiberi (OH12) and Stephen LaTourette (OH14).

Pennsylvania: Republican Senator Arlen Specter is an absolutely critical vote on a climate bill. He is considered a moderate and he is a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and his support will probably be necessary to advance a climate bill in the Senate. On the House side, Democrat Mike Doyle (PA14) is a critical swing member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Other swing votes in Pennsylvania include Democrats Jason Altmire (PA04), Chris Carney (PA10), Paul Kanjorski (PA11), John Murtha (PA12) and Tim Holden (PA17) and Republicans Jim Gerlach (PA06), Charlie Dent (PA15) and Todd Platts (PA19).

South Dakota: Democratic Senator Tim Johnson appears to be on the fence when it comes to a strong climate bill, due to concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. House Democrat Stephanie Herseth Sandlin is also a potential swing vote.

Virginia: Freshman Democratic Senator Mark Warner has not yet made strong statements in support for strong climate legislation, and fellow Democrat Jim Webb has expressed concerns about climate legislation's impact on the economy. On the House side, Democrat Rick Boucher (VA09) is a critical swing member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Freshman Democrats Glenn Nye (VA02), Tom Perriello (VA05) and Gerry Connolly (VA11) are all potential climate champions. All these members will need to hear from the grassroots to counteract pressure from Virginia coal interests.

West Virginia: Democratic Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller have questioned the economics of moving a climate bill. Both these members will need to hear from the grassroots to counteract pressure from West Virginia coal interests.