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## **CAP-AND-TRADE: THEN AND NOW**

At Tuesday's Senate hearings on cap-and-trade, some Administration officials changed their tune on how cap-and-trade would impact the economy and climate change. Several of the very same officials who are now championing the Kerry-Boxer proposal were once opposed to cap and trade legislation over concerns it would destroy jobs and not actually have a positive impact on the environment:

### **Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar:**

Last year, Salazar advocated a cautious approach to climate change legislation because the U.S. should not go it alone. Then-Sen. Ken Salazar: "As we have these dialogues around the country, as I have these dialogues with people in my state, what I hear back from them is we are not ready to do it now. We should go ahead and take a look at the issue of global warming this year, perhaps, and then next year move forward to pass legislation on global warming. And the rationale for that is essentially the subject matter of this hearing, which is you can't do this alone. You know, global warming is a planetary issue and given the emissions we have coming out of China and India and other places, how is it that the United States can move forward with its global warming legislation on its own this year?" (U.S. Senate, Committee on Finance, Hearing, 2/14/08)

Now Salazar seems to think the U.S. has waited too long. Secretary Salazar: "We at Interior and in the Obama Administration, under President Obama's leadership, very much look forward to working with this committee on both sides of the aisle ... to finally, once and for all, address the signature issue of our times, energy and climate change." (U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Hearing, October 27, 2009)

- Secretary Salazar: "The urgency of this bill is there and I believe that one of our responsibilities is to be able to tell that story of urgency to America." (U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Hearing, October 27, 2009)

- In written testimony, Secretary Salazar said the U.S. had fallen behind the world: “Every year, we spend hundreds of billions of dollars to import much of the oil we need to power our country. We have fallen behind the world in developing many of the energy technologies that will shape our economic future. The rising costs of the failed energy policies of the past have been unchecked for too long. As the President has said, there is a choice before us: we can remain the world’s leading importer of oil, or we can become the world’s leading exporter of clean energy technology.” (Written testimony: [http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=de10c07a-37b5-43f8-9cbd-4fd684167805](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=de10c07a-37b5-43f8-9cbd-4fd684167805))

### **Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood:**

In 2001, while in the House of Representatives, LaHood said it was former President George Bush’s “right” to revisit Kyoto. “[B]ush said other countries, such as China and India, should face immediate limits on their emissions as well. Central Illinois’ two Republican congressmen, Tim Johnson of Urbana and Ray LaHood of Peoria, agree with Bush. ... LaHood said Bush has a right to take time to re-examine treaties negotiated by the Clinton administration before he agrees to commit America to action that could harm its economy and cause major lifestyle changes.” (Scott Richardson, The [Bloomington, IL] Pantagraph, 6/21/01)

In his written testimony today, Secretary LaHood said S. 1733 would improve economic competitiveness. “I congratulate you on the difficult work you and your colleagues have undertaken on this bill and your efforts to improve America’s economic competitiveness and prosperity, reduce the Nation’s impact on climate change, and ensure America’s energy security.” (Written testimony: [http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d57c4a97-e8ba-48ef-b72f-4a35b31583d1](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d57c4a97-e8ba-48ef-b72f-4a35b31583d1))

### **FERC Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff:**

In 2007, Wellinghoff favored a Renewable Portfolio Standard over a cap and trade program. “[At an October 9, 2007 breakfast meeting sponsored by the Alliance to Save Energy] Wellinghoff spoke briefly about emissions trading. He said he does not support a cap-and-trade program adding that he’s seen ‘some problems with it in Europe.’ In response to a question about the dichotomy between his support of a national RPS and his opposition to a national cap-and-trade program, Wellinghoff said a portfolio standard with ‘a specific target tells you very precisely what you are doing.’ Conversely, a cap-and-trade program in Europe has only produced companies “making cement in Morocco” to reduce pollution in Europe, he said. ‘I’m very concerned about the unintended consequences about an open cap-and-trade program,’ he added.” (Global Power Report, 10/11/07)

But Wellinghoff supports S. 1733 despite the absence of an RPS. Commissioner Wellinghoff: “Sound energy policies must get the price in the markets right to achieve both our environmental and economic energy policy goals. S. 1733 is the key to getting it right. I encourage you to pass

this legislation.” (U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Hearing, October 27, 2009)

*The Alliance for Jobs and Affordable Energy (AJAE) is an organization dedicated to educating voters, employers, employees, and the general public about the negative economic impact of Congress's cap-and-trade legislation - also known as the American Clean Energy and Security Act - which is now being considered by the U.S. Senate. You can learn more about AJAE at <http://allianceforjobsandenergy.org>*

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