

The American Clean Energy and Security Act: Benefits to Maine

- Energy efficiency and clean energy provisions will provide **allowances to Maine of over \$240 million** during the period of 2012 to 2017, in place of the \$60 million that the state would have collected under Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that it created with other states.
- **The allowance provisions will provide over \$1.4 billion to states annually to mitigate any increases in home heating oil.** These allowances must be used as rebates for consumer protection and investments in energy efficiency. Maine has the highest home heating oil usage and will receive substantial funding from these allowances. It's important to note that this funding is **in addition** to the federal LIHEAP program already used to help Mainers pay for their heating oil.
- The bill includes an amendment that Congressman Michaud pushed to **make sure that biomass power producers, including Maine's pulp and paper facilities, will be recognized for their production of renewable energy.** This could mean an expansion of this locally produced clean energy sector and the creation of new jobs. The more utilities rely on renewable power in the future, the more this source of energy will be in demand in the coming years. This will help put Maine and other similarly situated states in a good position to benefit from a clean energy transition.
- Under the bill, sustainable agricultural practices and projects will be eligible for credits, which companies who pollute will need to purchase to offset their emissions. Congressman Michaud was able to clarify that the language in the bill on sustainable agriculture includes sustainable forestry. Because of this, the congressional intent is clear that **Maine's forest landowners will be part of our clean energy future.**
- **Clean energy provisions will benefit renewable energy research & development with over \$20 billion.** Maine has been the one of the leaders in wind, biomass, and tidal energy R&D and will receive substantial R&D funding, which will lead to the creation of new jobs and new clean energy technology.
- The energy efficiency section of the bill provides **block grants to states** – over \$90 billion will be available between 2012 to 2025. Maine has competed well for DOE energy efficiency block grants in the past and should receive substantial funding from this new program.