



**Cornwall
Alliance**

For The Stewardship Of Creation

For Immediate Release

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Evangelicals Say Poor, Minorities Will Be Hardest Hit By Climate Legislation Religious Coalition Calls On Congress To Care For "The Least Of These"

May 26, 2009 – (Washington, DC) Dr. E. Calvin Beisner, national spokesman for the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation, made the following comments on the recent passage of the Waxman-Markey bill out of committee.

“The Waxman-Markey bill’s passage through committee may be a boost to wealthy investors in alternative energy companies, but it is a massive tax increase and a heavy burden to lay on Americans with low and middle incomes.

“It’s a tax on the poor. The poor spend a much higher portion of their income on home energy, transportation, and necessities—like groceries, clothing, and housing costs—than the wealthy. Cap-and-trade will make all of those things more expensive.”

The bill, if it became law, would create a cap-and-trade program to drive down carbon dioxide emissions and mandate higher energy efficiency for structures and vehicles. It passed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce 33-25 (yes: 32 Dem., 1 Rep.; no: 21 Rep., 4 Dem.).

“In its current form, Waxman-Markey would have enormous negative impacts on Americans without achieving any measurable reduction in global warming. It would [reduce employment](#) by an average of 1.1 million jobs per year through 2035, when 2.5 million jobs would be lost. It would raise home electricity rates by 90%, gasoline prices by 74%, and natural gas prices by 55%. The average family would see their monthly energy costs jump by \$125.”

“The sad thing about all this is that it’s so unnecessary. Data show that the globe has been [cooling for the last five to seven years](#), and [recent research](#) indicates that CO₂’s influence on global warming is minute compared with the influence of natural [planetary](#) and [solar cycles](#).

“In fact, the research increasingly supports the theory of a robust ecosystem, not easily influenced by minute and largely natural fluctuations in atmospheric chemistry. That’s precisely what is implied by a Biblical worldview. As I [testified before the Energy & Environment subcommittee](#), the Bible says the Earth was created by an omniscient Designer, and on that basis we would expect to find it designed to be largely self-regulating and self-correcting, instead of fragile.”

Nearly [a fifth of American households say](#) an increase of \$20 a month in their electric bills would cause serious financial hardship, and 45% say an increase of \$50 a month would. And 58% say they’re not willing to pay *any* increase in electricity costs to combat climate change.

In January Pew found that [climate ranks dead last](#) in a list of thirty policy priorities, and in March Gallup recorded “the [highest level of public skepticism](#) about mainstream reporting on global warming seen in more than a decade of Gallup polling on the subject.” Every credible study in the last two years has demonstrated that evangelicals, especially, are wary of this issue; 65% believe the media has hyped the story, and 60% are concerned that global warming legislation will hurt the poor, here and abroad.