

**House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Discussion Draft Energy Legislation**

Summary: The Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality chaired by U.S. Representative Rick Boucher just released a Discussion Draft of Energy Legislation whose objectives, according to a memorandum from Chairman Boucher to the subcommittee members, are to increase the production of alternative and renewable fuels; reduce the carbon content of motor vehicle fuels, promote the availability of alternative fuels; promote the availability of alternative fuels; and increase motor vehicle efficiency.

Under Title I of the draft, the bill requires the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to establish minimum volumes of alternative fuel to be included in the mix of motor and non-road vehicle fuel sold in the United States beginning in 2013. Title I of the bill also creates a new Title of the Clean Air Act governing U.S. EPA's existing authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources; creates a low carbon fuels standards and sets forth standard specification for biodiesel.

Title II of the draft bill deals with alternative fuels infrastructure, establishing grants under the U.S. Department of Energy for the installation, replacement or conversion of existing infrastructure to allow it to be use with alternative fuels.

Title III of the draft bill deals with average fuel economy standards and requires U.S. Department of transportation to prescribe both passenger and non-passenger motor vehicle standards at the maximum feasible level beginning in model year 2012. Standards for passenger automobiles may be no less than 36 miles per hour (mph) after model 2021, and standards for non-passenger automobiles may be no less than 30 mph after model year 2024.

AQMD Concerns: In its current form this legislation would pre-empt California and local jurisdictions from implementing laws requiring the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The bill specifically would change the federal Clean Air Act to prohibit U.S. EPA to grant waivers for vehicle emissions if such state standards are designed to reduce greenhouse emissions, essentially this legislation would nullify California global warming legislation.

Recommended Position: Watch and work with the author and conference committee to address AQMD concerns.

Justification:

Support:
Unknown

Opposition:
Unknown