



Climate Change

January 2010

What legislative or regulatory action is appropriate to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions remains a point of intense debate on Capitol Hill and in the countryside. NAWG has engaged in this debate for a number of years with the goal of securing any possible benefits for wheat producers while minimizing the economic damage to wheat operations from new regulation. NAWG's Board has instructed staff to continue to work with leaders on the Hill and in the Administration to ensure the unique realities of agriculture are fully considered.

Net Economic Benefit

NAWG's Board of Directors has outlined a number of qualities it would like climate change legislation to possess, chief among them the need for a net economic benefit to farmers, agriculture and food production. Many studies have been done to examine likely economic effects of specific proposals, but none are definitive, and there is increasing concern that the assumptions used in many studies – including that done by USDA – are faulty. Any decisions in this area must be made based on reliable information.

NAWG believes climate change legislation must fully consider impact on agricultural producers and must provide a net economic benefit.

Agriculture's Unique Role

In the near term, greenhouse gas reductions from livestock and agricultural conservation practices are the easiest and most readily available means of reducing greenhouse gas on a meaningful scale. But, the extent to which climate change legislation would benefit or harm agricultural operations hinges upon the details of eventual legislation - or regulation.

NAWG is working with other agricultural groups and the office of Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who has introduced legislation that can form the agricultural piece in an eventual Senate climate change measure. The Stabenow language would meet many requirements agricultural groups have for climate change legislation, including putting USDA in charge of agriculture offset programs, providing incentives to early actors and supporting agriculture actions that reduce emissions.

Threat of Regulation

In just the past few months, the Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it finalized an endangerment finding against six greenhouse gases, empowering it to regulate emissions of those gases under the Clean Air Act with authority from a 2007 Supreme Court ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA*. NAWG opposes EPA regulation of greenhouse gases and recently signed onto a letter supporting efforts of Sen. Lisa Murkowski to introduce a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act regarding the EPA's intent to regulate.

Learn More

More information about NAWG's position on climate change legislation and work done to evaluate climate change proposals is available online at www.wheatworld.org/climatechange.

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