



United States Senate



Carper, Alexander Say National Parks Report Underscores Need for New Clean Air Legislation

Contact: Bill Ghent (Carper) 202-224-8395; Harvey Valentine (Alexander) 202-224-8816

WASHINGTON (Aug. 16, 2006) – Sens. Tom Carper, D-Del., and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., today issued the following statement regarding a report by the National Parks Conservation Association on how air pollution continues to be a problem for our national parks:

"Today's report by the National Parks Conservation Association highlights how air pollution continues to plague some of our country's greatest treasures. While we've made significant progress over the past 25 years in reducing harmful air pollutants, the fact is that current environmental regulations simply won't be enough to protect fully our country's valuable natural resources. The Clean Air Planning Act would significantly reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury above and beyond current law, while also encouraging the development of clean-coal power plants across the country."

Sens. Carper and Alexander are the leading cosponsors of the Clean Air Planning Act, which would place new controls on power plant emissions of mercury, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide, resulting in cleaner air than under the administration's new Clean Air Interstate (CAIR) and mercury rules, or the president's "Clear Skies" legislation. In addition to Sens. Carper and Alexander, the bill is cosponsored by Sens. Lincoln Chafee, R-R.I., Judd Gregg, R-N.H., Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Chris Dodd, D-Conn., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Mary Landrieu, D-La.

Specifically, CAPA would:

- Reduce **mercury emissions by 90 percent** at every power plant in the country by 2015;
- Reduce **nitrogen oxide by almost 68 percent** by 2015. The bill would set up a cap-and-trade program to reduce NOx with Eastern and Western zones so that NOx pollution is reduced in the area where it causes the most health and environmental problems.
- Reduce **sulfur dioxide by more than 82 percent** by 2015. The bill would set up a cap-and-trade program for SO₂. The cap is the most stringent of all the competing clean air bills.
- **Cap carbon dioxide emissions** from power plants at 2006 levels by 2010 and reduce them to 2001 levels by 2015. Power plants could meet these new requirements either by reducing their own CO₂ emissions or buying CO₂ "credits" on the open market from other industries that can more cheaply reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

###