

National Legislative Outlook Fall 2009

St. Louis Agribusiness Club
September 9, 2009

Overview

- Fall Schedule
- Clean Water Restoration Act
- Estate Tax
- Cap-and-Trade
- Lobbying Tips

Fall schedule

- FY 2010 begins October 1
- Number of appropriations bills = 12
- Number of appropriations bills signed into law = 0
- The House has passed all 12; the Senate has passed 4.

Clean Water Restoration Act

- S. 787 sponsored by Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI). Companion legislation to be introduced by Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN).
- Purpose: “To restore the original intent of the Clean Water Act and clarify its jurisdiction.”
- Proponents: environmentalists and sportsmen

Clean Water Restoration Act

In actuality S. 787...

- Erases the distinction between federal and state jurisdiction.
- Marks the most significant expansion of the CWA if enacted.
- Extends the regulatory authority of the EPA and Corps to ditches, gullies, ponds, etc.

Estate Tax

- For 2009, the estate tax exemption is \$3.5 million and the top tax rate is 45 percent.
- For 2010, estate taxes will be repealed.
- For 2011, the estate tax exemption will return to \$1 million and the top tax rate will be 55 percent.

Estate Tax

- Political reality – Democrat leaders do not want estate tax repeal to go into effect in 2010.
- The FY 2010 Congressional budget assumes extension of the estate tax exemption and rate at 2009 levels.

Note: The Senate-passed budget included an inflation-adjusted \$5 million/person exemption and a 35 percent top rate.

Estate Tax

To be determined...

- Permanent extension or one-year fix
- Amount of exemption and top tax rate

From Farm Bureau's perspective...

If permanent repeal cannot be achieved, a higher exemption level is needed and it should be indexed for inflation. Stepped-up basis is a must!

CAP AND TAX

Not such
a bright idea



Cap-and-Trade

Top 5 reasons FB opposes H.R. 2454:

- It will have virtually no impact on the earth's temperature.
- It doesn't force other countries to reduce their emissions.
- It will jeopardize our global competitiveness.
- It will drive up carbon-based energy prices.
- It will impose higher costs on all consumers.

Cap-and-Trade

Higher energy costs & more regulations are not the answer

OPPOSE

CAP and TAX


 MISSOURI FARM BUREAU

Higher energy costs and more regulations are not the answer

CAP and TAX

Not such a bright idea

Contact your U.S. Senators and Congressman



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Top 5 reasons to oppose H.R. 2454.
The mandatory "CAP AND TAX" bill will...

1. Drive up energy prices.
2. Impose higher costs on consumers and all sectors of the U.S. economy.
3. Jeopardize our competitiveness in global markets.
4. Not force other countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Not have a meaningful impact on the earth's temperature.

Cap and Tax - NOT such a bright idea


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Cap-and-Trade

Question for lawmakers:

What is it you wish to accomplish?

Lobbying Tips

Excerpts from *The Citizen's Handbook for Influencing Elected Officials*

- Know who you're talking to
- Know your issue
- Refine your presentation
- Don't arrive too early
- Deliver the message in the first 5 minutes

Lobbying Tips *(continued)*

- Always have a specific “ask”
- Never go off-message
- The less paper, the better
- Provide feedback to professional lobbyists
- Follow-up within two weeks