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The Stouffer Report: Sending a Message on “Cap and Trade”

As I have stated many times in the past, the federal government was created by the states, for the states. It was the colonies who gave the founding fathers the permission to form our union and until recent history, the federal government cared about the sovereignty and wishes of the states.

For this reason, I have sponsored a resolution urging Congress to oppose climate change legislation that could be the largest tax increase in our nation’s history.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 46](#) urges [Congress](#) not to enact “cap and trade” legislation. This federal proposal — [House Resolution 2454](#) — establishes a bureaucracy to oversee the purchase, sale or trade of permits for energy use meant to reduce carbon emissions. The so-called American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 would force major price increases for most energy sources on every man, woman, child and business in America. It would also hurt rural Missouri the most. Anyone who drives a car, heats a home, manufacturers or consumes products would end up paying the price.

“Cap and trade” is an ineffective way to meet the goal of creation care. This measure would place unprecedented burdens on American families and businesses, resulting in the largest tax increase in our history. House Resolution 2454 would benefit bureaucrats, lobbyists and special interest groups more than anyone.

According to the [Heritage Foundation](#), “cap and trade” (which is being referred to more often as “cap and

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tax") would destroy 2.5 million jobs; raise electricity rates by 90 percent, increase the cost of gasoline by 74 percent and natural gas by 55 percent; and increase the average family's annual energy bill by \$1,500. Can you imagine what kind of impact this would have on our farmers, families and schools in our area? It would wipe them out.

Fortunately, federal lawmakers have been very slow on Capitol Hill to advance this legislation. I think the past year's foray into health care reform has occupied their time more than anything. Plus, more folks have started to realize just how devastating some of the ideas coming from Washington, D.C. are to all of us. Hopefully, the same momentum that has kept a health care bill from being passed will keep "cap and trade" from becoming reality, too.

I pray our leaders in our nation's capitol will listen to what we are telling them. We have been very vocal in our displeasure with their ideas lately, and this will continue until they wake up and remember they do not run this country. It is every man, woman and child who wakes up each morning who makes this country work. My resolution — along with many other resolutions introduced in Jefferson City this year — sets out to remind them the federal government was created by the states, not the other way around.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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