

U.S. Senate Committee on
Foreign Relations
Chairman Sen. Dick Lugar

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Lugar-Biden Climate Change Resolution Approved

The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee today voted 9 to 4 in favor of the Lugar-Biden Climate Resolution which calls for U.S. participation in international climate change agreements.

The sense of the Senate Resolution was introduced by Committee chairman Richard G. Lugar (R-IN) and Ranking Member Senator Joe Biden (D-DE).

“It is critical that the international dialogue on climate change and American participation in those discussions move beyond the disputes over the Kyoto Protocols,” Lugar said. “This resolution sends a positive message to the rest of the world, and especially our allies and trading partners, that the United States is serious about addressing climate change. We need to include India and China, and recognize that a one-size-fits-all approach is not workable. There are other fair and effective international agreements we must pursue under the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which the U.S. ratified.”

“This is a significant restatement of the Senate’s view of climate change negotiations,” Biden said. “It demonstrates a bipartisan agreement that the science is solid, the threat is real, and that without U.S. leadership there is no way to stabilize global greenhouse gases before irreversible harm is done. Without that leadership, and with the growing emissions of emerging economies soon to overtake our own, comprehensive international action against global warming is at an impasse. This resolution demands action.”

Lugar and Biden introduced Senate Resolution 312 in November 2005. The Foreign Relations Committee also accepted several amendments to the original resolution offered by Sens. Lugar and Biden. The amendments recognized the April 2006 findings of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program that there is no longer a discrepancy between the rates of global average temperature increase observed at the earth’s surface and in the atmosphere, thereby strengthening the scientific evidence that human activity contributes significantly to global temperature increases; the December 2005 commitment by the Bush Administration to initiate a new dialogue on climate change under the Framework Convention; and the Bush Administration’s Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, which includes India and China, and is part of the U.S. commitment to the Framework Convention.

In the Foreign Relations Committee, Sens. Lugar and Biden have been focusing on the world security threats posed by the over-reliance on petroleum for energy. The Senators are promoting legislation directing the U.S. government to work more actively with developing countries to promote low-carbon alternative energy resources. Lugar and Biden are also promoting the development in the United States of carbon sequestration policies and cellulosic ethanol as a clean burning domestic alternative to petroleum products. Senator Lugar recently listed his tree farm in Indiana for carbon sequestration credits at the Chicago Climate Exchange.

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