



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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1920 L STREET, N.W. - SUITE 200 - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 - 202-785-0266 - [HTTP://WWW.ATR.ORG](http://www.ATR.org)

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## **The Clean Power Act Will Clean Out Our Wallets**

Americans need more energy, not less, and at a reasonable cost. If enacted into law, S. 556 (given the bland and comforting title “The Clean Power Act”) would reduce our domestic supply of energy and force Americans to pay higher prices for energy at a time when we can least afford such government mistakes.

The bill calls for severe reduction of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and mercury emissions as well as a drastic cutback in emissions of carbon dioxide (which, according to the Clean Air Act, isn’t even a pollutant). All this despite the fact that energy producers have been working diligently and with great success throughout the past three decades to dramatically slash emissions and improve air quality. Requiring them to instead comply with these impractical and unrealistic regulations is like replacing a diet with starvation.

The new regulations will force many coal-based power plants out of business and cause others to switch to more expensive, less plentiful fuels. Over half of our nation’s electricity is generated by coal, and damaging the viability of coal-based energy threatens our national energy security. Furthermore, the cost of complying with these proposed new standards and deadlines, which is certain to be passed down to the consumer by the companies that manage to survive this regulatory assault, will be devastating to energy producers and American consumers alike.

The US Energy Information Administration estimates that the average US consumer will be paying 32% more for electricity by 2010 if S. 556 passes (and that, by the way, is a tax increase). Driving energy companies out of business and draining Americans’ bank accounts in an attempt to realize any environmental goal whatsoever is never sensible policy. S. 556 must be defeated in order to maintain the production of plentiful and affordable electricity for all Americans.

**Accordingly, ATR will take this vote under consideration when we calculate our annual congressional ratings. A vote against S. 556 will be considered a vote for the taxpayers.**