

US Senator introduces energy bill with no cap-and-trade

US Republican Senator Richard Lugar has introduced his “Practical Energy and Climate Plan” – an energy bill without a cap-and-trade program. Lugar says the bill will reduce America’s foreign oil dependency, save Americans money on their energy bills, improve America’s industrial competitiveness, support investment in cleaner and more diverse energy choices; and, better use US domestic fossil fuel resources. The plan reflects both Republican and Democratic proposals and will generate the following savings by 2030: cut foreign oil dependence by nearly 40 per cent; decrease national energy consumption by 11 per cent; reduce average household electric bills by 15 per cent; and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent. “This practical energy and climate approach prioritises the cheapest and easiest energy savings: to achieve efficiencies in our buildings, appliances and industrial processes... Energy and climate legislation must reflect the economic realities facing Americans today. Like much of America, almost 10 per cent of [Indiana residents] are unemployed. Many more are underemployed and living paycheque-to-paycheque. We need enduring policies that help Americans ease their financial burdens and encourage markets with job-creating opportunities,” Lugar says. “This plan satisfies the concerns of two-thirds of Americans who say we should be addressing our energy needs now.”

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