

Kerry, Lieberman release details of American Power Act

US Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman have released the details of their comprehensive energy and climate change legislation which aims to create jobs, strengthen America's energy independence, safeguard US national security, and restore our global economic leadership for decades to come. "The American Power Act will finally change our nation's energy policy from a national weakness into a national strength," says Kerry. "We can finally tell the world that America is ready to take back our role as the world's clean energy leader. This is a bill for energy independence after a devastating oil spill, a bill to hold polluters accountable, a bill for billions of dollars to create the next generation of jobs, and a bill to end America's addiction to foreign oil and protect the air our children breathe and the water they drink." Kerry says the path to 60 votes in the Senate has been long, but despite Washington conventional wisdom, the US is closer than ever to a breakthrough. "Two Congresses ago, we had 38 votes for energy and climate legislation. Last Congress we had 54 senators prepared to vote yes. Now we're asking this Senate to hold a debate and insist on a vote again, with a fundamentally new policy approach that should secure bi-partisan support. This is the time." Lieberman says the American Power Act is fundamentally different from previous energy and climate bills, "and not just because it will be the one that actually passes", he adds. US President Barack Obama says he applauds Kerry and Lieberman for their tireless work in drafting the legislation. "This legislation will put America on the path to a clean energy economy that will create American jobs building the solar panels, wind blades and the car batteries of the future. It will strengthen our national security by beginning to break our dependence on foreign oil. And it will protect our environment for our children and grandchildren. Americans know what's at stake by continuing our dependence on fossil fuels," says Obama. He says he looks forward to "engaging with senators from both sides of the aisle and ultimately passing a bill this year".

Source: esaa news Issue 19 (17 May, 2010)