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## An Open Letter to Representative Kratovil: Oppose Cap-and-Trade Tax Hike!

June 18, 2009

The Honorable Frank Kratovil  
United States House of Representatives  
314 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kratovil:

On behalf of the thousands of Marylanders represented by the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose H.R. 2454, the Waxman-Markey "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009." This "cap-and-trade" system constitutes a mammoth tax hike and would crush our already-ailing economy.

H.R. 2454 would be a massive *new* tax heaped on top of existing burdens. Capping emissions and requiring entities to purchase additional allowances from the federal government will lead to an explosion in revenue. President Obama's own aides have admitted that it could drain as much as \$2 trillion from hard-working Americans.

This is a burden that would fall most heavily upon the least fortunate among us, many of whom are struggling *without* the imposition of such a tax. H.R. 2454 would increase taxes to the tune of \$3,100 on every American family *and* raise their annual energy bills by \$1,500. This is especially troublesome for poor American families who spend 26 percent of their income paying for energy, compared to just 4 percent for the median family. Furthermore, estimates are that it would destroy an average of 1,105,000 jobs per year. Adding to the economic pain your constituents are suffering is an unconscionable policy in these difficult times, especially in a state like Maryland which relies heavily on carbon-rich coal for more than 60 percent of its electricity generation.

If Congress deems carbon dioxide emissions to be a problem worthy of attention, then it should confront them without raising taxes on struggling American families in the process. If you do not support enacting the largest tax hike in history, which would be the unavoidable consequence of Waxman-Markey, then we urge you to sign the simple pledge attached to this letter which states that you will oppose any climate change legislation that would lead to a net increase in revenue. Only by signing such a pledge can one claim to protect taxpayers.

Again, we urge you to defend hard-working Marylanders and oppose H.R. 2454, the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill.

Sincerely,



Maryland Taxpayers Association, Inc.  
*The Voice of the Free State Taxpayer*



Duane Parde  
National Taxpayers Union

Brian M. Johnson  
Alliance for Worker Freedom

Susan A. Carleson  
American Civil Rights Union

Tim Phillips  
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Dave Schwartz  
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Center for Individual Freedom

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