



*“[Climate change legislation] must assist states, localities, and tribes to respond and adapt to the effects of global warming. A portion of auction revenues should be provided to states, localities, and tribes to respond to harm from global warming and adapt their infrastructure to its effects, such as more severe wildfires, **intensified droughts, increased water scarcity, sea level rise, floods, hurricanes, melting permafrost, and agricultural and public health impacts.**”*

*– Reps. Henry Waxman and Ed Markey  
Letter to Speaker Pelosi  
October 2, 2008*

As Congress establishes the framework for a comprehensive federal response to climate change, there is strong support in the House and Senate for targeted assistance to help communities prepare for and adapt to the unavoidable consequences of global warming.

Because many of the earliest and most critical impacts of global climate change will manifest themselves through the hydrologic system, AMWA believes that any adaptation program passed by Congress must pay particular attention to water resources and help local water managers identify and take the steps needed to maintain clean and plentiful water supplies across the United States.

The attached outline details several critical components that AMWA believes must be part of a comprehensive climate adaptation program. These elements include:

- A set-aside of cap-and-trade auction revenues for water research and adaptation programs;
- Federally-sponsored assessments of the vulnerability to climate change of regional water resources;
- Federally-sponsored research programs to downscale global climate modeling data, identify regional water quality and quantity risks, and develop enhanced water management practices; and
- A program through which water systems can compete for funding to implement climate change adaptation measures. Necessary measures will vary from region to region but may include projects to increase water conservation, energy efficiency initiatives that help water utilities reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, the development of alternative water sources (such as through reuse, recycling, and desalination), and improvements to critical infrastructure.



*“There is now growing concern that California, after several years of drought like conditions and one of the driest winters on record, may be in another period of major drought. Because of global climate change, our weather is changing each year. While we can hope for wetter years in the future, it is important that we begin to plan for dryer years.”*

– Senator Barbara Boxer

Water Conservation Webpage

<http://boxer.senate.gov/features/water/>

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