

USA

Senate Evaluates Bush Administration's Policy on Climate Change

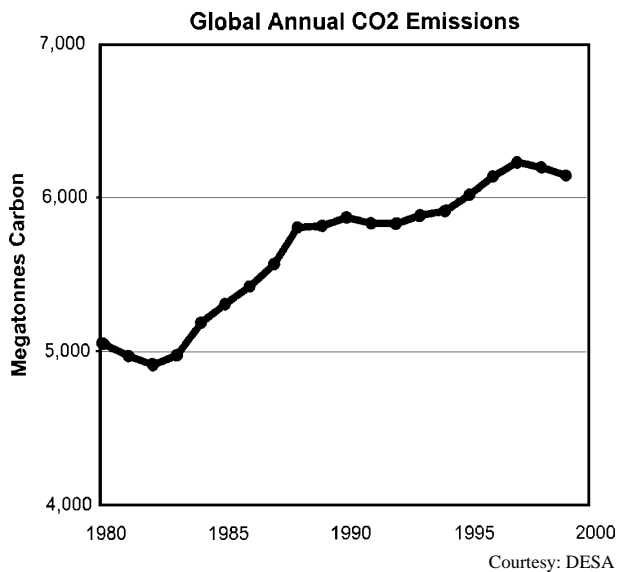
On 29 January 2002, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works invited MP Charles Caccia of the Canadian House of Commons along with other Parliamentarians from Europe to comment on the issue of climate change from their national perspectives. The statement of Charles Caccia is reprinted in full on page 188.

The Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private

of the economy. That sector is now approximately 27 per cent above our national goal of achieving 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions as set in the Senate-ratified United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Voluntary measures have failed to reduce total emissions and will likely continue to fail to change the current emissions trend. If the United States does not fundamentally alter its energy path sometime in the next 10–20 years, the country will, almost singularly, lock in (sic) a doubling of the world's atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. Many scientists believe that a doubling qualifies as dangerous, and have noted that our actions' consequences will last for decades, if not centuries.

I urge great care in suggesting amendments to relieve polluters of compliance with existing *Clean Air Act* requirements in any Administration proposal. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has heard from many witnesses, including the Administration, regarding the need for such relief. None of them have yet provided the analytical justification necessary to show that this relief would lead to greater improvements in air quality and public health and environmental protection than the existing requirements."

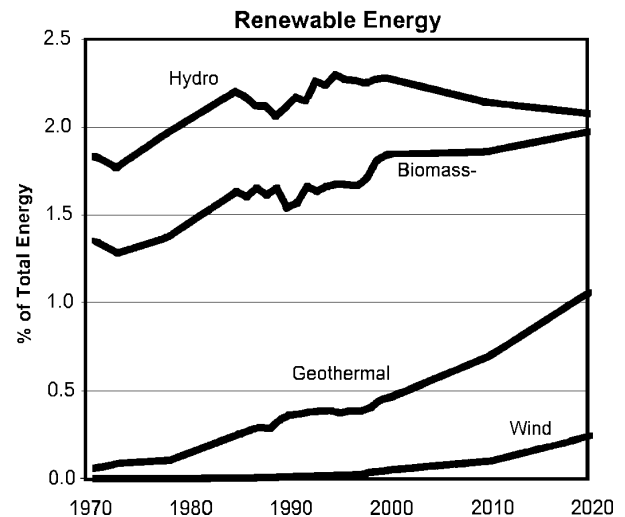
Senator Jeffords also asked the Administration to make good on its promise to provide technical assistance from



Property, and Nuclear Safety also held hearings on Senate bill 556, to amend the *Clean Air Act* to reduce emissions from electric power plants, focusing on technologies to limit the emissions of carbon and mercury from power plants (electric generation facilities with a nameplate capacity of 15 megawatts or greater that use a combustion device to generate electricity for sale by 1 January 2007) and other compliant alternatives, receiving testimony from representatives of the Department of Energy and of the energy-producing industry.

Senator Jim Jeffords (Vermont), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, in an open letter to President Bush on 7 February 2002, renewed his call for the Bush Administration to release its proposal to control pollution from electric power facilities. He maintained that the Administration's proposal must be able to show that it improves air quality, including CO₂ reductions, for it to be credible:

"As you may know, I believe the Administration proposal must include a strategy for achieving real carbon dioxide reductions from the electricity producing sector



the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the Senate undertakes further consideration of amendments to the *Clean Air Act*. (MAB)