

# American Power Act Highlights

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Senators Kerry and Lieberman have drafted a bill – the American Power Act – that would *produce more energy here in America while transitioning to a low-carbon future.*

The bill is **not** an economy-wide cap-and-trade; rather, it is a more business-friendly and consumer-friendly sector-based energy and climate strategy that would have different requirements designed to meet the different needs of utilities, manufacturing, and transportation.

Highlights of the bill:

- Produces more energy here in America with a balanced “all of the above” energy strategy that includes expanded investment in coal, nuclear power, and alternative energy like wind and solar
- Reduces our dependence on imported oil by creating clean energy and more jobs for Americans
- Includes strong protection for consumers as our nation transitions to a clean energy economy
- Creates a program for managing carbon in the US by putting a limit on carbon pollution and allows *farmers and foresters to be a part of the solution* through voluntary participation in the offsets market

*The bill would create a **robust voluntary offsets program** for agriculture and forestry even though agriculture would not be regulated.*

The offsets piece was guided by language authored by a team of Senators from key manufacturing and agricultural states.

The offsets program:

- Based on the Clean Energy Partnerships Act authored by Senator Stabenow and other key Senators
- Includes an extensive list of ag and forest offset types including tillage practices, cover cropping, and efficient use of nitrogen fertilizer as well as livestock projects such as methane digesters
- Establishes USDA as the lead agency on all agricultural projects
- Provides generous protection for early adopters
- Includes provisions to monitor afforestation and ensure that working ag lands continue to produce the crops that feed the world
- Allows stackability of credits from other conservation or stewardship program payments

This bill is also important because it *puts Congress in charge of determining how and when EPA is allowed to control greenhouse gases in the US.*