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INDUSTRY GROUP URGES PROMPT MARKUP OF CLEAN AIR BILL

Warns that delay undermines cap-and-trade

WASHINGTON, DC, April 30 – A market-oriented industry and professional group supporting clean air legislation is urging Senator Barbara Boxer, chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, to schedule markup “as soon as possible” of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010 (S.2995), sponsored by Senators Tom Carper (D-Delaware) and Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee.)

The Environmental Markets Association (EMA), representing more than 250 professionals, including engineers, environmental market participants, as well as electricity generators and other industrial companies, said the passage of S.2995 would help correct the serious environmental problems caused by a 2008 DC Circuit decision overturning EPA’s Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR.)

In an April 29 letter to Sen. Boxer, EMA said that the CAIR ruling left the markets for sulfur dioxide “in complete and utter disarray.”

Without congressional intervention, these markets may not recover and the public’s perception of cap-and-trade would be undermined.

“This, in turn, could undermine efforts in Congress to address global warming and efforts by California to establish its trading program,” the industry group wrote.

It noted that S.2995 would fix the problems caused by the Circuit court’s ruling and would provide “some much needed certainty” to the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide markets.