

HOUSE ENERGY BILL RAISES CONCERNS FROM TRUCKING INDUSTRY

The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 by a final vote of 219-212. While the trucking industry strongly supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make our country more energy independent, ATA expressed its strong reservations with H.R. 2454 in a letter to Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman and bill sponsor Henry Waxman (D-Calif.).

ATA has an overriding concern that mobile sources, including trucks, should be addressed differently than traditional stationary sources under any carbon reduction regulatory program. In its letter to Chairman Waxman, ATA identified four specific concerns with H.R. 2454.

- ATA believes the legislation will significantly increase the price of diesel fuel. Any substantial fuel cost increases will negatively impact the delivery of consumer goods.
- Our nation faces an infrastructure crisis. None of the carbon auction revenues generated under H.R. 2454 would go toward highway infrastructure improvements.
- ATA has advocated for greater government oversight of petroleum markets in order to put a stop to excessive speculation in these markets. While H.R. 2454 does address this issue, we believe that trading reform should be passed, implemented and enforced prior to the creation of new carbon commodity markets.
- Congress needs to be mindful that truck transportation is not a discretionary activity. It is vital for moving our nation's freight. The trucking industry has few, if any, available alternatives to diesel fuel and H.R. 2454 does not provide for the incentives to develop new technologies or alternative fuels for this vital industry.

As climate change legislation moves to the Senate, ATA will work on solutions that consider the financial health of our transportation system, the viability of our economy and our nation's environment.