

# 2008 Congressional Voting Record

The 110th Congress began in 2007 with the promise of a new energy economy. New leaders in Congress promised to push through new policies that would foster renewable energy and energy efficiency. By the end of the year, Congress had passed H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act, which increased the corporate automobile fuel economy standard from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon and expanded national biofuels production from the current 9 billion gallons per year to 36 billion gallons per year by 2022.

More changes were promised for 2008, and although there were a number of pressing issues, energy remained the overriding theme of the issues Congress took on during the session. The prospects for progress toward a new energy economy were ripe in early 2008, with early efforts to extend incentives for renewable energy production. The summer saw a sharp increase in gas prices, however, which the fossil fuel industry's allies in Congress saw as an opportunity to push for expanded domestic drilling, under the auspice that it would drive down the price of gasoline. This message was pushed throughout the summer and during the ongoing presidential campaign when prices peaked at more than \$4.00 a gallon. As a result, little progress was made at the federal level on many of WORC's priority issues. The year ended with Congress finally passing an extension of a package of renewable energy tax incentives after many unsuccessful attempts, but also ending the moratorium on commercial oil shale leasing.

Looking ahead to 2009 and 2010, we look forward to working with a new Congress and the new Administration as it begins to take shape, and remain committed to working with the members of our delegation to take on new energy policy and advocating for issues that affect us most in the Western US.

## House Votes

### H1 - Clean Energy Tax Incentives

HR 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, would have extended the tax credit for wind and other renewable energy methods by three years and reinstated expired credits for commercial and resident buildings. In addition, new tax credits were made available for plug-in hybrids and other transportation alternatives. WORC supported this bill; it passed 236-182 (House roll call vote #84).

### H2 - Trade

H Res 1092 is a vote on a rule that would have delayed a vote on legislation to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. WORC supported this amendment because we oppose the Columbia agreement; the vote passed 224-195 (House roll call vote #181).

# House of Representatives

These votes represent key votes on WORC's issues made by the members of WORC's Congressional delegation.

To see how other members of Congress voted on these issues, go to:

House Votes - <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/index.asp>

Senate Votes - [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/vote\\_menu\\_110\\_2.htm](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/vote_menu_110_2.htm)

— Anna Lucas

		H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	
		Clean Energy Tax Incentives	Trade	Clean Energy Tax Incentives (motion to recommit)	Clean Energy Tax Incentives	Oil Shale	% Score
Colorado	DeGette (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Udall (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Salazar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Musgrave (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Lamborn (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Tancredo (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Perlmutter (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
Idaho	Sali (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Simpson (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
Montana	Rehberg (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
North Dakota	Pomeroy (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
Oregon	Wu (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Walden (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Blumenauer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	DeFazio (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Hooley (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
South Dakota	Herseth Sandlin (D)	+	+	+	+	-	80
Wyoming	Cubin (R)	-	-	-	-	NV	0

# Senate

		S1	S2	S3	S4	% Score
		Clean Energy Tax Incentives	Oil Shale	CTL/Oil Shale	Clean Energy Cloture	
Colorado	Allard (R)	-	-	-	-	0
	Salazar (D)	+	+	+	+	100
Idaho	Craig (R)	-	-	-	-	0
	Crapo (R)	-	-	-	-	0
Montana	Baucus (D)	+	+	+	+	100
	Tester (D)	+	+	+	+	100
North Dakota	Conrad (D)	+	+	+	+	100
	Dorgan (D)	+	-	+	+	75
Oregon	Smith (R)	+	+	+	+	100
	Wyden (D)	+	+	+	+	100
South Dakota	Johnson (D)	+	-	+	+	75
	Thune (R)	-	-	-	-	0
Wyoming	Barasso (R)	-	-	-	-	0
	Enzi (R)	-	-	-	-	0

+ Vote supports WORC's position  
 - Vote did not support WORC's position

NV No vote

### **H3 - Clean Energy Tax Incentive (motion to recommit)**

HR 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008, would have extended dozens of expired or soon-to-expire tax provisions for one year, including tax credits for research, investment in solar and fuel cells, and the production tax credit for wind and other renewable energy sources. The tax credits would have been paid for, or offset, by closing corporate tax loopholes. WORC opposed this vote, which would have sent HR 6049 back to the House Ways and Means Committee with instructions to remove the offsets, because to do so would effectively kill the bill; it was rejected 201-220, (House roll call vote #343).

### **H4 - Clean Energy Tax Incentive credit**

After the effort to weaken HR 6049 (see H 3, above) failed, the House voted to pass the bill. WORC supported this vote; it passed 263-160 (House roll call vote #344).

### **H5 - Renewable Energy and Oil Shale-Peterson Amendment**

HR 6899 would have extended tax credits to the renewable energy industry, instituted energy efficiency standards for buildings, and repealed billions of dollars in tax subsidies to oil companies. During consideration of HR 6899, Representative John Peterson (R-PA) offered a motion to strike the 15% Renewable Electricity Standard and open additional federal lands and waters to drilling, and provide federal subsidies for oil shale development. WORC opposed this amendment; it failed 191-226 (House roll call vote #598).

## **Senate Votes**

### **S1 - Clean Energy Tax Incentives**

Vote on cloture (to limit debate or end a filibuster, at least 60 votes needed) for the economic stimulus bill, HR 5140, that included an extension of the renewable energy and energy efficiency tax incentives. The cloture vote failed by just one vote. (Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) switched his vote from yes to no for parliamentary reasons when it became clear that the vote would fail to win the 60 votes necessary.) WORC supported this vote; it failed 58-41. (Senate roll call vote #8)

### **S2 - Oil Shale**

Vote on S. 4207, Senator Lamar Alexander's (R-TN) amendment to the budget resolution that would have made it difficult to extend the moratorium on commercial oil shale leasing for Fiscal Year 2009. WORC opposed this vote; it failed 51-47 (Senate roll call vote #56).

### **S3 - Coal to Liquids and Oil Shale**

During consideration of S. 2284, the National Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) offered an amendment that would have created a mandate for liquid coal and struck the moratorium on commercial oil shale leasing. WORC opposed this bill, which required 60 votes to pass; it failed 42-56. (Senate roll call vote #123).

### **S4 - Undermining Clean Energy Tax Incentives**

In another effort to pass the renewable energy tax credits before they expired, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, included a one-year extension in the energy tax bill, S. 3335. This Bill also contained provisions for new renewable clean energy technologies. WORC supported this vote, which required 60 votes to pass; it failed 51-43 vote. (Senate roll call vote #192).