



CONTACTS: **Erica Avidus**
(202) 596-2357

Oct. 19, 2009

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Announces Free Enterprise Climate Policy *Internal Conflict Resolves in Commitment To Long-Term Prosperity*

WASHINGTON, D.C.-The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is throwing its weight behind strong climate legislation, a spokesman for Chamber President Tom J. Donahue announced today at the National Press Club.

"We believe that strong climate legislation is the best way to ensure American innovation, create jobs, and make sure the U.S. and the world are on track to reduce global carbon emissions, and to provide for the needs of the American business community for generations to come," said the spokesman, Hingo Sembra.

The new position is an about-face on climate policy for the Chamber, which previously lobbied against government action. The shift comes after the defection of several prominent members of the Chamber, including PG&E, Apple, PNM Resources, and Exelon.

"We believe the Kerry-Boxer Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act is a good start towards strong legislation," noted Sembra, adding that such legislation "should include a stiff carbon tax and correspondingly strong incentives for industries we wish to foster."

"A carbon tax means less need for legislating by Congress, a surer business environment for companies, and a simpler, competition-friendly mechanism for reducing carbon than the bill's current cap-and-trade approach," said Sembra.

The Chamber announced an immediate moratorium on lobbying and publicity work opposing climate legislation.

[Full prepared comments here.](#)

###

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than 300,000 businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.