

<http://www.politico.com/arena/archive/the-climate-bill-yea-or-nay.html#4D64C75A-FA6E-4B5D-B7DA-248D08778C75>

Daniel F. Becker, Director, Safe Climate Campaign:

(With James Gerstenzang) Unfortunately the Energy-Climate bill has more holes than cheese.

Chairmen Waxman and Markey and Speaker Pelosi tried mightily. Despite long odds, they came up with a bill that begins to cut emissions, pushes the states to start shifting to renewable energy sources, and orders new coal plants to capture 50% of their carbon emissions.

But: The standards for the emissions don't come near the 17% claimed by supporters. Even if they did, they would be far less than what scientists say must be achieved to avoid dire consequences. The bill's renewable energy provisions fall far short of technology can provide. The requirement for the cleaner coal plants wouldn't take effect until 2025—and that technology doesn't exist. And the bill revokes EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants. That's a step backwards.

The administration already has authority to act and many opportunities to cut emissions under existing law. Congress should write a prescription strong enough to fight the disease.