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| |  | | --- | | Senator Scott Brown’s response R-MA to an NRDC member:       Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns over the regulation of greenhouse gases by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).  As always, I value your input on this and other issues, and strive to keep you updated on the important issues facing us today.         While a member of the Massachusetts State Legislature, I supported several measures that provided common sense incentives for clean energy innovation and a transition to a low carbon economy.  I believe this is an integral part of protecting and preserving our environment for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren.         In the U.S. Senate, I have worked with Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) on legislation that would sharply limit sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, and have  joined with Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) to cosponsor legislation that would establish the Home Star home energy conservation rebate program to increase energy efficiency in our homes and create jobs.  I remain committed to developing cleaner sources of energy, but also believe we should do it in a way that does not hurt our chances to improve the economy and put people back to work.         While many of my colleagues have argued that giving the EPA the ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions is the answer to our energy problems, I disagree.  This action would give an unelected and unaccountable government agency the power to impose restrictive and damaging carbon dioxide regulations that will drive up energy prices and hurt job-creating small businesses in Massachusetts and across the nation.  We cannot have every restaurant owner or small farmer worried about the costs of complying with new carbon dioxide emissions restrictions.  Furthermore, imposing this regulation of emissions is something that will affect every aspect of our economy and every American.  Decisions pertaining to this serious issue should have a full and open debate in Congress.         I believe there are better, more responsible ways to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, which do not cede significant influence to the EPA and ultimately break the back of our economy.  Those efforts include encouraging greater energy efficiency in our homes, vehicles and offices.  It also means investment in developing additional sources of natural gas and allowing for new nuclear power generation, as well as fostering more renewable energy production.  In addition, we should pursue incentives and logistical assistance to encourage our automotive fleet to move away from oil toward natural gas, efficient battery technology, and other low carbon transportation fuels.  We should also consider more funding for basic research into the energy breakthroughs of tomorrow, such as algae-based fuel.         Massachusetts is home to some of the world's top technology leaders, companies, and institutions, and we should harness this knowledge and innovation to find new, cost effective solutions to address these significant issues.  We have great potential to transition to a nation focused on clean energy.  We must act, but we must do so in a way that maximizes potential job benefits and does not burden our economy with unnecessary costs at a time when it is still recovering.         Again, thank you for sharing your comments with me.  I will keep your views in mind should the full Senate debate energy and climate change legislation in the coming months.  If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or visit my website at [www.scottbrown.senate.gov](http://www.scottbrown.senate.gov). | |
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