

**Statement by**  
**U. S. Representative Tom Allen**  
**at a Press Conference to Announce**  
**The Clean Power Plant Act of 2001**  
**April 2, 2001**

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.

BEFORE I START, I WANT TO THANK JOHN FLUMERFELT AND ALL OF FOLKS HERE AT THE WESTBROOK ENERGY CENTER FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND COOPERATION IN HOSTING THIS EVENT. IF EVERY FOSSIL-FUEL FIRED POWER PLANT IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AS CLEAN AND EFFICIENT AS THIS NEW, STATE OF THE ART FACILITY, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION I WILL INTRODUCE THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO INTRODUCE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED ME HERE THIS MORNING.

ED MILLER IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF MAINE. FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF MAINE HAS BEEN LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST LUNG DISEASE THROUGH LEGISLATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RESEARCH.

SUE JONES IS AIR PROJECTS DIRECTOR FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE. NRCM HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD OF THE FIGHT FOR CLEAN AIR IN MAINE AND THE NATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

DR. PETER WILK REPRESENTS MAINE PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT.

SUSAN SARGENT IS MAINE'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THEM FOR JOINING ME HERE TODAY.

ALSO JOINING US HERE THIS MORNING ARE A NUMBER OF MAINE CITIZENS FOR WHOM CLEAN AIR IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH. EACH DAY, THEY AWAKE WONDERING WHETHER IT WILL BE SAFE FOR THEM TO GO

OUTSIDE.

WILL TODAY'S OZONE LEVEL FORCE A YOUNG WOMAN SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE TO MISS A DAY OF WORK OR RISK A LIFE-THREATENING EPISODE?

WILL PARTICULATE MATTER IN TODAY'S AIR TRIGGER A CHILD'S ASTHMA ATTACK?

WILL TODAY'S NOX LEVEL MEAN THAT A SENIOR'S TRIP TO THE GROCERY STORE ENDS IN A TRIP TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM?

THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT ALONE.

ATMOSPHERIC MERCURY DEPOSITION HAS MADE THE FISH FROM MAINE'S RIVERS AND LAKES POISONOUS TO PREGNANT WOMEN, THEIR BABIES AND THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN.

IN THIS CENTURY, GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE WILL THREATEN OUR COASTLINE AND WAY OF LIFE.

SMOG MIGRATING FROM THE WEST AND SOUTH NOW SHROUDS CADILLAC MOUNTAIN ON MANY SUMMER DAYS AND MAKES THE AIR WE BREATHE IN MAINE MORE POLLUTED ON SOME DAYS THAN PHILADELPHIA.

IT'S TIME FOR US TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW, I WILL INTRODUCE THE CLEAN POWER PLANT ACT.

MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I FIRST INTRODUCED THIS LEGISLATION TWO YEARS AGO.

OLD POLLUTING PLANTS ARE POLLUTING MORE; . . .

. . . THE EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS MORE CLEAR; . . .

. . . AND WE NOW HAVE A PRESIDENT WHOSE ENERGY POLICY JEOPARDIZES OUR FUTURE FOR THE SHORT TERM INTERESTS OF THE OIL AND COAL INDUSTRIES.

MY LEGISLATION CLOSES THE SO-CALLED ‘GRANDFATHER’ LOOPHOLE WHICH ALLOWS UTILITIES, PRIMARILY IN THE MIDWEST AND TEXAS, TO CONTINUE POLLUTING OUR AIR NEARLY 30 YEARS AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

IT ESTABLISHES STRINGENT YET ATTAINABLE STANDARDS FOR MERCURY, SULFUR DIOXIDE, NITROGEN OXIDES AND, YES, PRESIDENT BUSH, FOR CARBON DIOXIDE.

AND, EXCEPT FOR CO<sub>2</sub>, MY BILL DOES NOT LET POWER PLANTS “TRADE” POLLUTION CREDITS.

OTHER BILLS, IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, ALLOW TRADING OF SULFUR DIOXIDE AND NITROGEN OXIDES.

MINE DOESN’T.

I BELIEVE WE NEED TO CONTROL THE HARMFUL LOCAL EFFECTS OF POLLUTING PLANTS.

BACK IN 1970, PASSAGE OF CLEAN AIR ACT REQUIRED A COMPROMISE TO EXEMPT EXISTING VEHICLES AND POWER PLANTS FROM COMPLIANCE.

CONGRESS ASSUMED THAT NEW VEHICLES AND NEW POWER PLANTS SUBJECT TO THE LAW’S STRICT POLLUTION STANDARDS WOULD SOON REPLACE THEM.

AND THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR CARS AND TRUCKS.

BUT NOT FOR POWER PLANTS.

UTILITIES DISCOVERED THAT DIRTY POWER IS PROFITABLE POWER.

EXEMPTION FROM EMISSION CONTROLS HAS BECOME A LICENSE TO POLLUTE.

BUT THE PROFIT UTILITIES REAP FROM THIS “CHEAP POWER” COMES AT A HIGH PRICE FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

IT IS MORE THAN OFFSET IN HEALTH CARE COSTS, LOST WORKER PRODUCTIVITY AND DAMAGE TO NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

NEW ENGLAND CONSUMERS PAY THE PRICE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

WE ARE DOWNWIND FROM MOST OF THE POLLUTING PLANTS, IN THE MIDWEST.

WHILE WE GET THE DIRTY AIR, MIDWESTERNERS GET CHEAPER ELECTRICITY.

IT'S TIME TO END THIS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISCRIMINATION.

IT IS ALSO TIME TO REGULATE THE CARBON DIOXIDE THAT IS SLOWLY BUT UNDENIABLY ALTERING THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR PLANET.

DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT BUSH VOWED TO REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE.

NOW HE HAS BROKEN THIS PROMISE.

HE HAS GONE EVEN FURTHER

LAST WEEK HE DECLARED THE KYOTO ACCORD ON GLOBAL WARMING 'DEAD.'

THE U.S. HAS NOT PULLED OUT OF A MULTINATIONAL AGREEMENT OF SUCH IMPORTANCE LIKE THIS SINCE WE WITHDREW FROM THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I.

IN PULLING OUT OF KYOTO AND IN BACKING AWAY FROM HIS PLEDGE THE PRESIDENT HAS TURNED AMERICA'S BACK ON THE REST OF THE WORLD.

SCIENTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, HAVE AGREED THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND IS BEING DRIVEN BY EMISSIONS PRODUCED BY MAN.

THEY ARE PROJECTING THAT IN THE NEXT 100 YEARS WE WILL SEE TEMPERATURES RISE FROM 2.7 AND 11 DEGREES.

TEMPERATURE CHANGES WILL CAUSE A BROAD RANGE OF IMPACTS. SEA LEVELS WILL RISE, FLOODING COASTAL AREAS.

GLACIERS AND POLAR ICE PACKS WILL MELT.

DROUGHTS AND WILDFIRES WILL OCCUR MORE OFTEN.

AND AS HABITAT CHANGES, SPECIES WILL BE PUSHED TO EXTINCTION.

WE MUST IN SPITE OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESISTANCE.

MY LEGISLATION WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD REDUCING THESE DANGERS OF MERCURY POISONING, ACID RAIN, OZONE, AND GLOBAL WARMING.

IT WILL LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, REMOVING THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF OLD, POLLUTING, INEFFICIENT PLANTS.

IT WILL PROVIDE GRANTS FOR COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY REDUCED USE OF COAL AND OIL.

AND FINALLY, IT WILL EXTEND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO TOWNS THAT RELIED ON OLDER UTILITIES AS A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THEIR TAX BASE.

WITH SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY AND CONCERNED CITIZENS ACROSS THE NATION WE CAN MOVE THIS LEGISLATION FORWARD.

WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THE VIEW FROM CADILLAC MOUNTAIN IS AS SPECTACULAR IN AUGUST AS IT IS IN MAY.

WE CAN CONTROL THE EPIDEMIC OF ASTHMA THAT PLAGUES OUR CHILDREN.

WE CAN MAKE IT SAFE FOR OUR SENIORS TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN SUMMER WITHOUT FEAR OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS.

WE CAN ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

IF WE DO, OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN WILL INHERIT A SAFE, LIVEABLE WORLD.

THANK YOU.

AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE . . .

ED MILLER OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF MAINE.

SUE JONES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE.

DR. PETER WILK OF MAINE PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.