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## **CLIMATE: Coleman signs on to cap-and-trade plan (Tuesday, May 22, 2007)**

Darren Samuelsohn, *E&E Daily* senior reporter

Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.) yesterday became the latest convert in the global warming debate, having decided to cosponsor legislation that would impose mandatory controls on greenhouse gases across the U.S. economy.

[image removed](#)

Coleman joined Sens. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) on [S. 280](#), the "Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act," a bill that requires a roughly 67 percent cut in heat-trapping emissions by mid-century.

"It is time for Congress to act on the issue of climate change," Coleman said yesterday in a prepared statement. "This is not a problem we can leave to our children to solve."

In exchange for Coleman's signature, Lieberman agreed to team up with the Minnesota Republican on a "Sense of the Senate" [resolution](#) promising a review of U.S. climate regulations if other countries do not launch programs "that are comparable in effectiveness."

The review also would start if the greenhouse gas cuts lead to an increase in the rate of poverty or unemployment.

Coleman is the third former opponent of mandatory greenhouse gas regulations to switch sides this year. Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Neb.) has cosponsored the Lieberman-McCain bill, while Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.) decided to back legislation from Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) covering only power plant pollution.

Other cosponsors of the Lieberman-McCain plan include Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and the two leading Democratic presidential candidates, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.)

For Coleman, the shift marks another strategic move as he gears up for a tough re-

election contest in 2008. Twice before, Coleman voted against the Lieberman-McCain bill when it came up for debate on the Senate floor.

Environmental groups have chided Coleman for his record on climate change, specifically questioning a draft bill the senator circulated last year that would have stripped states like California and New York of their right to set global warming caps ahead of the federal government.

Coleman attached the state pre-emption clause to his "Clean Energy Portfolio Standard," a larger package requiring major electric utilities to move a growing percentage of their energy production into low- and zero-carbon sources, such as wind, solar, nuclear and integrated-gasification combined-cycle coal plants.

In January, Coleman dropped the state language from the bill. But environmentalists still balked, saying the senator was not in support of the type of mandatory greenhouse gas controls seen in the Lieberman-McCain bill.

This time around, Coleman appears to have won their support.

"Global warming is the defining issue of the 21st century, and I am tremendously pleased that Sen. Coleman is going to be a leader in advancing solutions," said Larry Schweiger, president of the National Wildlife Federation.

Lieberman, chairman of a Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee on global warming, also agreed to hold a hearing on Coleman's energy portfolio bill.

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