

NEWS RELEASE

from Congressman Joe Moakley, 9th District, Massachusetts

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MOAKLEY HAILS STRICT ACID RAIN BILL

Congressman Joe Moakley (D-MA) today joined 13 other Members of the New England Congressional delegation to introduce what he called "a tough but responsible acid rain control bill."

Similar to a measure backed by the New England delegation in the 98th Congress, the bill mandates a 12 million ton reduction in the level of sulfur dioxide emissions (nearly 50 percent of total emissions) over the next ten years. The measure also provides for a cost sharing mechanism to assist polluting states in their clean up efforts.

Moakley noted that passage of effective acid rain legislation is one of his highest priorities. "This is not only an effective piece of legislation, but it is also very realistic in that it offers some financial assistance to those states which must bear the costs of reducing emissions," Moakley said. "It tries to treat all regions of the country fairly. We realize the necessity of gaining the support of other Congresspersons from around the country, not just the Northeast, if we want to pass this bill."

In the previous Congress, advocates of acid rain control failed by a one-vote margin to report a bill out of the key House Subcommittee dealing with the issue. However, Congressman Moakley believes that the country as a whole is becoming more aware and more concerned about the acid rain issue.

"We're going to have to fight hard to get this bill passed," Moakley said, "but I believe the future of New England's environment and rich physical resources demands that our region take a firm and responsible position."

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SEE: attachments