

• CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP •
Topic # 20
U.S. Sign Kyoto Convention Protocols?

Overview

Questions to ponder: Why hasn't the U.S. become a signer to this point? For the countries who have signed, do they have any obligation beyond monitoring and reporting emissions? How effective is a voluntary agreement? What is the cost/benefit usefulness for signers? Are you aware of the Byrd-Hagel Resolution declaring the U.S. should not sign any protocol that did not include binding targets and timetables? Has the Kyoto agreement made any difference to this point? Can it hope to reduce global warming problems? Can it succeed without U.S. involvement? Can global warming be better addressed with some other agreement?

Background references

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocols
- <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html>
- <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/kyoto/kyotorpt.html>
- <http://www.answers.com/topic/kyoto-protocol?cat=biz-fin>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/kyoto/>
- <http://environment.about.com/od/globalwarming/tp/globalwarmtips.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Kyoto_Protocol_signatories

Citations supporting the affirmative

- <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/akyotoqa.asp>
- <http://www.kyotousa.org/>
- <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/>
- <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20080324/brecher>
- <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1898443/posts>
- <http://www.newsweek.com/id/134262>

Citations supporting the negative

- <http://environment.about.com/od/kyotoprotocol/i/kyotoprotocol.htm>
- <http://usliberals.about.com/od/environmentalconcerns/p/KyotoProtocol.htm>
- <http://www.worldpress.org/Asia/2224.cfm>
- <http://www.globalwarming.org/node/34>
- <http://www.globalwarming.org/node/1933>
- <http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/mar/06/bush-insists-on-unity-on-green-pact/>

Additional Magazine References

- Economist, May 17, 2008, pgs 74-75, "A Moment of Truth"
- Time, October 15, 2007, "Eco-Rebels"
- Time, December 10, 2007, "Cutting a Climate Deal"