

Excerpt from USA Today, July 9, 2009

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2009/07/cap-and-trade-and-you-.html>

■ Columnists' opinions

Common Ground

Bridging the partisan
divide in Washington

Cap and trade — and you

Can Congress find an effective — and efficient — way to reduce greenhouse gases? Where Bob sees a world-saver, Cal sees a jobs-killer.

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Cal: Are you done? I can trot out my own scientists to shout down the global warming alarmists, but lest this piece become hand-to-hand combat on climate change, let's stick to the energy issue. As I was saying, I'm for reducing American dependence on oil from countries that use our money to fund terrorism and oppress their people. We are both in accord on that. But this cap-and-trade bill is a jobs-killer. It would [raise taxes](#) and, I think, actually increase our dependence on foreign oil because the cost to businesses would mean less domestic exploration. And before you say it, those so-called green jobs that the president promises will have to be subsidized by Washington, because government doesn't create technology people want to buy. That's what the private sector does, but the private sector won't be able to compete with big government.

Bob: Or perhaps now that the largest economy in the world is finally getting behind the green movement, the private money will follow. It's worth noting that since March, clean-energy companies have seen their [stocks boom](#), by far outpacing the rest of the equities market. The Wilderhill Clean Energy Index, comprised of 51 companies, is up 72% since early March. With apologies to Tina Turner, what's government got to do with it?

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Cal: So is there any common ground?

Bob: Of course. We agree that

We don't agree on global warming, but we do agree on moving the United States away from dependence on foreign oil. The increase in alternative energy research and development in this bill would provide homegrown energy sources — from solar to wind to new electric batteries for powering cars, to clean coal technology and drilling for abundant natural gas. Surely we can find common ground on those things. Besides, the Senate this week was beginning to take its turn with this legislation. Let's see what the sausage-grinder produces.