

## CAP AND TRADE: The Boxer-Kerry Bill & Reasonable Responses

The cap-and-trade bill sponsored by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) has a steep cost, as expected, and is drawing howls of criticism.

“The bill will do nothing to effectively address global warming,” said NCPA Senior Fellow H. Sterling Burnett.

In addition, the National Black Chamber of Commerce estimates cap-and-trade legislation will reduce national gross domestic product by roughly \$350 billion, cut employment by 2.5 million jobs and could cost taxpayers more than \$1,761 per family each year.

“Furthermore, the Boxer-Kerry bill will not reduce global warming any more than one-tenth of a degree by 2050,” Burnett, the author of the NCPA’s recent study on reasonable responses to climate change, added.

“No-regrets policies, such as eliminating fuel subsidies, reducing regulatory barriers to nuclear plant construction and encouraging breakthrough technologies by fostering competition, would provide benefits beyond their affect on climate,” he said. “Those policies would also help us adapt to any future climate change, regardless of the direction that change takes.”

## Tree Rings and Faulty Peer Review—Are Wolf Bones the Answer?

The use of tree rings as a proxy for reconstructing historical temperatures is causing a scandal for some peer-reviewed articles, including those used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. According to *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, the dataset used in those studies consists of samples from only 12 trees, and there’s some evidence that those samples may have been “cherry-picked.” Scientists at the Michigan Technological University, meanwhile, assert that the earth’s environmental change is “clearly writ in the bones of wolves.” (see photo below) They claim that predators, like wolves, are better predictors of historical climate change than tree rings because the wolves consume other animals whose diet mostly consists of plants. MTU researchers say, “Just being who they are, wolves and other top predators increase the sample size because they did the sampling for us.”



### Quotable Notes

*“The American public...just like your teenage kids, aren’t acting in a way that they should act. The American public has to really understand in their core how important this issue is.” --*  
**Dr. Steven Chu, President Obama’s Energy Secretary, speaking on the sidelines of a smart grid conference in Washington, D.C., in September.**

