

1 COMMITTEE: Environment
2 POLICY: Climate Change Legislation and Unintended
3 Consequences
4 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing
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6 Climate change is a far reaching topic that affects multiple issues of everyday life. As with
7 any topic that covers such a wide range of issues, it is important that unintended
8 consequences be considered, both for action and inaction. The National Conference of State
9 Legislatures (NCSL) believes that federal legislation regarding the reduction of greenhouse
10 gases should take into account the implications of actions and/or inactions on economic
11 development, energy security, and those most vulnerable citizens. Evaluation should include
12 the life cycle impacts of policy options including ancillary impacts.
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14 NCSL believes that federal legislation should require continuing assessments of the potential
15 impacts to the United States of climate change, by state or region including effects on water
16 resources, agriculture, infrastructure, natural systems, environmental quality, public health,
17 biodiversity and the cultures of our native peoples. Such an assessment will support the
18 development of domestic and international adaptation-mitigation strategies. The
19 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should provide funding and assist states in
20 developing assessments and adaptation plans at the state and regional level.
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22 NCSL also urges the federal government to fully consider how legislation will affect low-
23 income households that already struggle to balance needs and expenses. NCSL encourages
24 the federal government to expand and enhance long-term funding for the Department of
25 Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and to ensure that any new federal program
26 does not undermine existing federal, state and private sector energy assistance and outreach
27 programs that assist our most vulnerable citizens.
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