



Max Baucus D-Montana

As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Baucus is a key player in the climate and energy debate. In Fall 2009, he was the only Democratic “no” vote on the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act but stated, “I am going work to get climate legislation that can get 60 votes through the U.S. Senate and signed into law.” His defensive prowess includes writing legislation to safeguard natural resources. The question remains whether he will go to bat for Montana’s sportsmen and farmers or sit on the bench through the ninth inning without helping craft a deal.

Evan Bayh D-Indiana

With Senator Bayh’s announced retirement at the end of the season and hints that he might run again for governor, he is definitely a player to watch this year. Will he continue his tradition of coming through for the Clean Energy Team to vote “yes” on climate and energy bills? Or will he sneak in another pinch hit for Big Oil, as he did when he recently voted to undercut the Clean Air Act and strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Hopes remain high that Bayh will retire as an MVP for the Clean Energy Team.



Jeff Bingaman D-New Mexico

The rap on the Chairman of the Senate and Energy and Natural Resources Committee is that he often plays small ball instead of swinging for the fences. His committee passed an energy bill before the oil spill with a very modest (10%) renewable electricity standard, expanded drilling off Florida’s coast, and a handful of other energy incentives.⁵ Conservation groups largely oppose the bill as too weak but no one counts Bingaman out, since he has often sought to advance solutions to climate change. While bunting to move legislation forward can be strategic, with the game on the line Bingaman will need to swing for the fences. Look for a potential clutch role from the steady Senator from New Mexico.

Barbara Boxer D-California

The Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hails from the state that wrote much of playbook on clean energy and reducing global warming pollution. Following suit, Senator Boxer has been a dependable leadoff hitter on climate and energy legislation. She worked extensively on the Climate Security Act of 2008, the first climate bill to ever see a vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Then she passed the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act of 2009, which she wrote with Senator Kerry, out of her committee the first session of the 111th Congress. Keep a close eye on how Boxer turns on hanging curve ball climate science speeches from Senator Inhofe.



Scott Brown R-Massachusetts

Senator Brown’s election victory to replace the late Senator Ted Kennedy seemed to come out of left field. Representing a state that hasn’t voted for a Republican senator since President Obama was 11 years old, Senator Brown must decide whether he’ll be a Big Papi or a Bill Buckner. With the game on the line, will he stand up for his state, with its significant clean tech business opportunities and off-shore wind potential or will thousands of clean energy jobs go right through his legs?

Sherrod Brown D-Ohio

A tough-as-nails senator from a Midwest coal and manufacturing state, Senator Brown is not afraid to get his suit dirty in crafting comprehensive climate and energy legislation that helps consumers and ensures the jobs and economic development of a clean energy economy benefit America’s heartland. He voted “no” on such a proposal in 2008,⁶ but recently said, “We need an energy policy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil and addresses the serious threat of climate change... done right, a clean energy bill will also be a jobs bill.” Will Senator Sherrod Brown’s hustle and grit be the key to victory for clean energy?





Maria Cantwell D-Washington

Senator Cantwell likes to play inside baseball, believing the best approach is a short climate and energy bill that gives most of the money collected from selling pollution permits back to consumers. Her bipartisan "CLEAR Act," which she cosponsored with Senator Susan Collins, is a variation on cap-and-trade that many call "cap-and-dividend." Although her proposal currently lacks the support it needs to get to 60 votes, expect Senator Cantwell to put on her game face and push her plan to price carbon pollution.

Susan Collins R-Maine

One of a few leadoff hitters in the Republican Caucus, Senator Collins voted "yes" for one of the earliest Senate proposals to reduce global warming pollution, the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act of 2003. Since then, she has voted for several other climate bills and is now a cosponsor of the "CLEAR Act" with Senator Cantwell. That makes Senator Collins the only Republican who is presently a cosponsor of climate and energy legislation in the 111th Congress. Watch for her to make some interesting plays, especially around the widely disputed issue of "carbon neutral" biomass.



Lindsey Graham R-South Carolina

As one of the initial authors of the "tri-partisan" American Power Act with Senators Kerry and Lieberman, Senator Graham was the Clean Energy Team's biggest Republican hopeful. There was even talk that he could be in the running for MVP due to his willingness to take political heat for supporting a cap on carbon pollution. However, hard feelings over the passage of healthcare legislation and a curveball on immigration reform led Senator Graham to leave the negotiations on climate and energy. He seems to have gone from a leadoff hitter to a benchwarmer. Hopes still remain that he will step to the plate for clean energy and knock the cover off the ball.

Iudd Gregg R-New Hampshire

This third-term Republican senator is often considered a moderate on environmental issues and has voted repeatedly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, Senator Gregg said, "Congress must tackle climate legislation." But he is retiring after this season and is coming down to his last out to help make this happen. Will he homer like Ted Williams in his last at-bat and help his state lead the nation on sustainable biomass technology or will he end his game looking at a called third strike, like he did when he voted to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's Supreme Court-directed finding that global warming pollution harms the public health and welfare?



John Kerry D-Massachusetts

Senator Kerry's leadership, work ethic and spirit of bipartisanship have made him team captain and one of this year's favorites for the Clean Energy Team's MVP. Senator Feinstein of California recently said, "no one has ever worked harder on any bill than Senator Kerry has worked on climate change." He has spent months meeting with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, the White House, industry representatives, military veterans, and business leaders, trying to craft a proposal that could get the 60 Senators needed to bat for the Clean Energy Team and send energy reform to the president's desk.

Mary Landrien D-Louisiana

There is no Democratic senator who has been more pro-drilling than this third-termer from Louisiana. But turns out she may not be Big Oil's Babe Ruth after all. After the spill, to the amazement of many, she declared that "[Oil's] time has come and is moving past us, and the transition to clean renewable energy is one our country has to begin immediately."⁸ Does this mean Senator Landrien is likely to support a comprehensive clean energy and climate bill? Hard to say but look for her to seek language and funding in any bill to restore the vital wetlands and marshes of the Mississippi Delta, which were sadly neglected after Katrina and now need help more than ever.





George LeMieux R-Florida

A rookie senator, George LeMieux represents a state that is on the front lines of climate change impacts and the BP oil spill disaster. As a longtime ally and confidant to Florida Governor Charlie Crist, Senator LeMieux had a good run in the Grapefruit League effusively supporting Crist's actions to address global warming. But just this year he seemed to slump, voting with the rest of his party to undercut the science of global warming.⁹ Will he swing again for Big Oil or be the surprise Clean Energy Rookie of the Year?

Joe Lieberman I-Connecticut

This independent from Connecticut is the Iron Horse of the Clean Energy Team, having co-sponsored a climate bill for the 4th consecutive Congress. His experience led to the American Power Act which he wrote with Senators Kerry and Graham.¹⁰ If he can help shepherd a climate and energy bill through to passage, Lieberman stands a good chance of making it into the American Power All-Stars Hall of Fame.



Blanche Lincoln D-Arkansas

Senator Lincoln once went to bat for the hunters and anglers of Arkansas – voting for cloture on the Climate Security Act of 2008,¹¹ and saying, “I believe we can craft a proposal that will appropriately balance the needs of businesses and consumers—especially those most vulnerable to an increase in energy costs—to protect our environment for our children and grandchildren.”¹² But since her recent rise to Chair of the Agriculture Committee and an expected tough re-election fight Arkansans have seen an entirely different player on the field.

Dick Lugar R-Indiana

A wily veteran pitcher, Senator Lugar has made a career with his fastball—focusing on national security issues, including energy security—but he is now throwing more off-speed stuff. He recently introduced legislation he calls the Practical Energy and Climate Plan.¹³ It nips at the corners to reduce carbon pollution through improving energy efficiency for vehicles and buildings, and attempts to make America more energy independent by boosting domestic oil production. His proposal includes many important energy reforms, but it lacks a price on carbon pollution. With climate change looming on deck, the Senator needs to rear back and throw his fastball to pass climate legislation

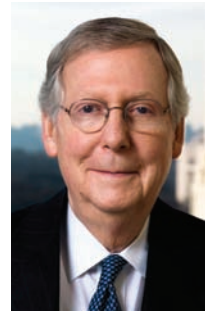


John McCain R-Arizona

Will Senator McCain go from Kirk Gibson to Steve Bartman? The former Republican standard bearer had been the first Republican to craft a bipartisan bill with a cap on carbon and the first to force votes on the issue. Some even hoped for a post-election reconciliation between Senator McCain and President Obama built on this very issue, considering tackling the climate crisis was one of his presidential campaign promises. But with a tea-party backed challenge from former Congressman JD Hayworth in the Republican primary, Johnny “rides the bench” McCain will probably play it safe, but if he does get some skin back in the climate game, anything is possible.

Mitch McConnell R-Kentucky

Senate Minority Leader McConnell would prefer every game to be a rainout, calling a climate bill a “non-starter” and even trying to tie the American Power Act to BP’s bad name. Always ready to turn a double-play with legendary science-denier Senator James Inhofe, Senator McConnell likes to play politics instead of reaching across the aisle to work on legislation that would break America’s dangerous dependence on oil. Instead of trash-talking on the floor of the U.S. Senate, he should leave it to the crazed fans in up the stands. Americans want our political leaders to rise above the Mendoza line and take action on clean energy.





Jeff Merkley D-Oregon

The first term senator from Oregon is the Clean Energy Team’s favorite for rookie of the year, having recently released an ambitious plan to eliminate America’s dependence on overseas oil. He said, “American entrepreneurs and ingenuity are undoubtedly capable of breaking our addiction to oil. The question for all of us, policymakers and citizens, is whether we’re going to choose strength or vulnerability.” Will the Senate’s political leadership take a cue from this up-and-comer or will they let the special interests break their focus and take their eye off the ball?

Lisa Murkowski R-Alaska

Senator Murkowski is the Republican caucus’ star from the steroid era--she had some big hits back in the day, but recent actions have made people wonder whether she really had the clean energy talent. She cosponsored the Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007 and has said, “I stand ready to work on climate legislation.”¹⁴ But she seemed to have caved to the lure of Big Oil’s money when she took her Big Oil Bailout to the Senate floor and struck out.¹⁵ As the ranking member of the Senate Energy Committee, she holds a high-profile position in the climate and energy debate and clean energy fans still hold out hope that her support for clean energy wasn’t just an HGH mirage.



Bill Nelson D-Florida

The senior senator from Florida is pitching a shutout by all accounts. While Florida politician after politician caved or softened on offshore drilling in recent years, Senator Nelson has never wavered. With oil hitting the state’s cherished beaches, the former astronaut looks like something of a visionary. As the only Gulf state senator opposed to expanding offshore drilling and in favor of capping carbon pollution, this Senator is clearly in the running for Clean Energy Team MVP.

Harry Reid D-Nevada

Can the senator from Searchlight guide the Clean Energy League to victory? Up for re-election some predict this former amateur boxer will be too cautious to fight for a comprehensive clean energy and climate bill. With the skill of LaRussa and the wisdom and wit of Stengel and tenacity of Sparky Anderson, the Majority Leader can craft a bill that addresses the BP disaster, moves our nation away from oil and ushers in a clean energy jobs revolution to Nevada and the rest of the nation.



Jay Rockefeller D-West Virginia

Senator Rockefeller’s former senior senator, the late Robert Byrd, said “Coal must embrace the future.” In his later years, Senator Byrd recognized that coal had to find a place in the new clean energy economy and West Virginia had to be part of the solution to global warming. Although Senator Rockefeller has voted for climate and energy legislation in the past that would help coal embrace the future, this year he has introduced a proposal that would put this off for another few years. Will he follow the legacy that Senator Byrd started or strike out for the people of West Virginia who want investments in sequestration as part of a comprehensive package?

Olympia Snowe R-Maine

Senator Snowe has historically been a reliable at-bat for action on climate change, even cosponsoring one of the earliest climate bills. But recently, she made a big hit for the Big Oil Team by voting to deny climate science and undermine the Environmental Protection Agency. Will the Maine Republican rise to the occasion and find her former groove as a clutch hitter for climate and clean energy, or will she get distracted by pressure from McConnell and Big Oil and lose sight of the ball?

