

Energy Expert – 'Cap and Trade' a Leftist Plot

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Newsmax staff

As "cap and trade" legislation (H.R. 2454) moves through Congress, policy analysts are sounding the alarm about the impact such legislation would have on the already troubled U.S. economy. Marlo Lewis, a global warming and energy policy analyst at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, believes the bill is just one of many legislative and regulatory attempts by left-wing politicians to seize the U.S. and world financial system.

"Basically, what they're trying to do is engineer a takeover of the U.S. and global economies through regulation," Lewis told Newsmax.TV correspondent Kathleen Walter. "There are huge stakes here. Trillions of dollars are at stake."

Lewis said cap and trade would have a chilling effect on the U.S. economy by creating a cloud of uncertainty over all business investments relating to energy-intensive products. It would require a sharp reduction of energy use in the U.S. economy, which would drive up energy prices. The days of \$4 gallons of gasoline would return, Lewis said.

"The main thing to consider is that once you get a cap and trade system in place, you have an energy-rationing scheme locked into law, regulation, public policy," said Lewis. "From then on, the debate will only be over how much faster to tighten the cap, how much more stringent the restriction on fossil energy use will be."

legislation at the expense of the American people. The Environmental Protection Agency would see a huge increase in resources, funding and staff under a cap and trade. Many government agencies and some on Wall Street stand to benefit from such program. Many big businesses also would stand to profit from energy-rationing schemes.

"If you have cap and trade, what you have is an artificial government-created market for trading carbon futures, carbon derivatives, a multitrillion-dollar market," said Lewis. "Wall Street will get rich off this, because brokers make money whenever any commodity is bought or sold."

Still, Lewis isn't worried. Though H.R. 2454 has already passed the House, he doesn't believe it will pass the Senate. His biggest concern? A process the EPA is undertaking right now.

"If the EPA makes what's called an 'endangerment finding' about carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from new motor vehicles — which they will likely do — that will start a regulatory chain reaction under the Clean Air Act, and we could get all kinds of draconian regulations that go way beyond anything congress would ever vote for."

The EPA, Lewis noted, is not held responsible by the electorate.

The global warming debate, in recent weeks, has taken a particularly nasty turn. A far-left agenda-setting Web site suggested that global warming deniers should be executed. Lewis also was the target of a widely circulated e-mail in which he was called a liar by the president of the American Council on Renewable Energy.

"The global warming agenda is part of the hard edge of left-wing politics in the U.S. and the world," Lewis said. "They know if they don't win in the political arena [on this issue], they lose. So, they have to become more and more shrill. They have to marginalize and delegitimize their opponents. This is the aging of the new left."

Marlo Lewis is seeking to debunk human induced global warming myths perpetrated by former Vice President Al Gore. He recently produced the documentary "Policy Peril: Why Global Warming Policies Are More Dangerous Than Global Warming Itself." In the film, he refutes many of the global warming claims made in Gore's best-selling book and Academy Award-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." The film can be viewed at <http://ceiondemand.org/2009/07/17/policy-peril-global-warming/>.

See Video: Marlo Lewis says left-wingers plotting takeover - [Click Here Now](#)