

Western Regional Climate Action Initiative
Washington-Oregon-California-Arizona-New Mexico
February 26, 2007

Summary:

- all 5 states independently have been taking actions within their own borders on climate change
- all 5 have set green house gas reduction targets for their state
- all 5 have adopted or committed to adopt the California clean tailpipe standards
- all have completed or are in the process of completing stakeholder processes to identify options for reducing emission

- In addition to actions in the individual states, this MOU was preceded by other regional agreements –e.g, NM and AZ last year established the Southwest Climate Change Initiative, and a few years ago CA, OR, and WA established the Western Governors’ Global Warming Initiative.
- A regional cap and regional market-based program for meeting the cap was the next logical step for our states.
- It’s hard to say that any one state had the lead because of this groundswell of state and regional climate initiatives that already were happening.

- Immediately after NM’s Climate Change Advisory Group issued its report in Dec 2006, Governor Richardson issued an Executive Order implementing a number of their recommendations.
- Gov Schwarzenegger sent Richardson a letter congratulating him on this EO
- Richardson responded to Schwarzenegger in a letter, saying that the time had come for them to work on a mandatory regional cap-and-trade program.
- The 5-state talks then began in earnest at the staff level. Oregon was instrumental in drafting a strawman that we worked from.

Re: the “were other states invited” question:

- We’ve left the door open for other states, Canadian provinces, Mexican states, and tribes to join if they are ready to move forward at the same progressive level and pace as the original 5 states (as outlined above).
- Others, especially brand new governors, are likely to observe the process for a while and perhaps join later.

Governors’ staff leads for our states will be meeting in a few weeks to begin working out details related to process (the nature of stakeholder involvement, etc.) and the regional cap.