

# Byrd Proposal Could Damage Coal Industry

## *"Byrd Offers Way He Could Support Cap and Trade"*

**Charleston, WV - August 14th, 2009** - Senator Byrd joined ten other senators calling for a "border mechanism," better known as a carbon tariff, in the Cap and Trade bill. They said without such a measure it would be hard for them to support the Cap and Trade bill. "My question is why is Senator Byrd even considering voting for a bill that can severely damage West Virginian's coal industry?" asked Republican Party Chairman Doug McKinney.



An August 2007 Associated Press article reported that West Virginia's total exports to China were \$187 million in 2006. The article further stated that China was West Virginia's fourth largest export market. The Wall Street Journal has recently reported, "The Chinese government has warned that a carbon tariff could lead to a trade war. China has so far refused to commit to specific targets for cutting emissions."

A trade war sparked by the tariffs suggested by Senator Byrd and the other senators would not just be limited to China. West Virginia in 2006 exported goods valued at \$923 million to Canada, \$313 million to Belgium and \$269 million to Japan. \$1.7 billion in West Virginia exports to just our top 4 purchasers alone would be put in jeopardy if the Byrd carbon tariffs are put in place.

Chairman McKinney stated, "Senator Byrd appears to be only focusing on choices that hurt West Virginia. He should support West Virginia energy and just vote no on any form of a Cap and Trade bill."

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