

NAM – Official Policy Positions:

Global Climate Change

The NAM recognizes there is a relationship between economic growth, global energy consumption and the environment. The NAM also recognizes that concern about the potential impact of human activities on the earth's natural greenhouse effect has become an international issue. However, there remains considerable scientific uncertainty and disagreement regarding human impacts on climate, and there is an inability to predict accurately future climate change. In fact, observational data have not confirmed evidence of global warming that can be attributed to human activities. This argues that any proposed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be subject to thorough and open public debate, including consideration of their impact on the U.S. Economy and its international competitiveness. We believe any U.S. climate change policies should be voluntary, cost-effective, compatible with our marketplace economy, flexible, global in scope and involve all of our trading partners, and take into account all greenhouse GAS sources and sinks. Therefore, the NAM opposes any federal or state government actions regarding climate change that could adversely affect the international competitiveness of the U.S. marketplace economy.

The NAM also recognizes that knowledge of the environment is not static, nor is our ability to protect it. Technological advances developed by the marketplace have greatly minimized and continue to reduce the environmental impact of domestic energy production and consumption. The NAM encourages policies which recognize these technological advances and allow for balance between economic growth and protection of our environment. 10/17/97