

Senator Jon Tester (MT-D) Introduces The "Energy Efficient Manufactured Housing Act of 2009" in The Senate

On Monday, June 22nd, Senator Jon Tester (MT-D) introduced S. 1320, the "Energy Efficient Manufactured Housing Act of 2009," the companion legislation to H.R. 1749 introduced by Representative Baron Hill (IN-9th-D). The House bill is now a provision within the omnibus energy package, H.R. 2454, the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" which was approved by the Energy & Commerce Committee and is moving towards floor consideration.

A provision of this bill is intended to encourage owners of pre-1976 manufactured homes to replace those homes with new energy efficient manufactured homes that meet Energy Star standards. This legislation would offer \$7500 rebates which may be provided to facilitate the purchase of a new Energy Star qualified home. The program would be funded at \$1 billion with grant monies awarded by the Department of Energy to state agencies responsible for developing state energy conservation programs. The monies would be distributed to states on the basis of their proportionate share of homes constructed prior to 1976.

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Energy Programs Consortium held a briefing to discuss how manufactured housing can play an important role in energy, climate, and affordable housing policy solutions. Speakers included Ms. Stacey Epperson, president and chief executive officer, Frontier Housing Inc., of Kentucky.