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**The Neal Asbury Show**  
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## Brookings Institute Managing Director Antholis Characterizes Climate Change as the Most Complicated Political Transaction in the History of Mankind.



Appearing on this week's nationally syndicated The Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM was William J. Antholis, Managing Director of The Brookings Institution. In that capacity, he works directly with Brookings's President and Vice Presidents to help manage the full range of policy studies, develop new initiatives, coordinate research across programs, strengthen the policy impact of Brookings research, and ensure the quality and independence of that research. Echoing Dick Gephardt, former majority leader of the US House of Representatives, Dr. Antholis, who was once Deputy Director of Climate Change, characterized climate change as "the most complicated political transaction in the history of mankind." In fact, the severity of

the current discussion in Copenhagen on climate control "can be multiplied by the 192 countries participating in the forum."

To put the issue in perspective, Dr. Antholis noted that energy represents one-sixth of the U.S. economy – equal to that of healthcare. Despite some uncertainties about whether climate change can be traced to a human component, Dr. Antholis proposed that 90 percent of scientists acknowledge that something is happening to the global climate and that man has a role in it. In fact, toward the end of his administration even President Bush believed that man had a role in climate change.

Dr. Antholis likened the global energy policy to driving 120 miles per hour on a curvy road. At that speed, it poses a danger. So he believes that the conversation needs to be slowed down so that countries are driving at a speed limit that can lead to some safe standards.

China and India are countries that are not "driving safely" when it comes to climate control. But Dr. Antholis believes that China will begin to drive at a safer speed because with a population that is three times larger than the U.S., they need to control carbon emissions and stop building coal-fired plants with 1950s technology. Dr. Antholis is optimistic about

moves he is seeing in China, with greater urgency placed on nuclear energy and moving to capture more carbon emissions. The danger however, is that unless this technology meets recognized safety standards, they will do more harm than good. And with the Himalayas nearby as the third largest ice cap and a major source of water, if global warming starts to melt the ice, drought will plague China and major parts of Asia.

While the discussion turned to the many people in the U.S. who are against the proposed Cap and Trade policy, pointing to its failure to work in countries such as Germany, Dr. Antholis contends that people are misreading this. He suggests that while Cap and Trade was not a huge success in Germany, it did play a role in making Germany the Number One producer of solar energy in the world – a role that can be traced to putting a price on carbon. He proposes that the U.S. should assume that position, with the abundant opportunities available in the Southwest.



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"Green technology will be the next industrial revolution in America. U.S. entrepreneurs are already engaged in this revolution, which started within the automobile manufacturing industry, where innovation has always started. But we can't be complacent and wait for the rest of the world to catch up -- we can't use this as an excuse not to push ahead," said Dr. Antholis, who also is a Senior Fellow in Governance Studies, where his work focuses on the politics and institutions of international diplomacy. "But many small businesses are looking for certainty on pricing before moving ahead. They want to know the true cost of adopting new energy standards before they begin hiring and investing," he added.

Also joining the show, for a repeat visit, was Congressman Charles W. (Charlie) Stenholm (D-TX) who serves the 17th Congressional District of Texas. Congressman Stenholm is not a supporter of the Cap and Trade bill and contends that if enacted, it will result in the loss of some 2 million jobs, far more than will be created with "green" jobs.

"We need to be focusing on one topic: jobs, jobs, jobs. A bill that limits job growth isn't smart," said Congressman Stenholm, a "Blue Dog, a Boll Weevil," a farmer, and a third generation Texan who is a voice of rural America.

Congressman Stenholm proposes that America shouldn't be passing

an energy policy "if we aren't sure about the science behind it. There are data that suggest that less than 1/10 of one percent of carbon emissions are man-made. We need to consider this when we start talking about an energy policy. We need to take a deep breath and remind the world that we are the leader in GNP and know how to use and price energy."

Congressman Stenholm is tired of watching Congress make oil and gas companies the "whipping boy" on energy issues. He reminded the audience that oil and gas companies have spent \$175 billion looking for new energy sources since 1990, and are just as committed to renewable energy as any sector.

"There simply is no alternative to fossil fuels, and there won't be for another 30 years. It will be like that no matter we do since 50 percent of our energy comes from fossil fuels. We should have been drilling in Alaska 15 years ago. I'm all for nuclear energy, hydro, wind and solar but there are still groups that are against all of these that keep them from being considered. Everyone agrees that conservation make sense, and using renewable energy creates jobs" said Congressman Stenholm.

Congressman Stenholm believes that the Copenhagen energy summit will create some new global dynamics, and that the U.S. must be a responsible member of the world energy dis-

cussion. But he warns that we can't do this while "shooting ourselves in both feet if it means job losses."

"Cap and Trade is not a solution for energy management. We can't limit carbon emissions if we do it by over-taxing companies. Providing incentives for emissions control is the better alternative," concluded Congressman Stenholm.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles free trade and enterprise issues every Friday from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM on WZAB-AM 880 and is co-hosted by Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience. The show is streamed live on line at [WWW.880THEBIZ.COM](http://WWW.880THEBIZ.COM), which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC, and can be heard nationally on 920-WGKA (Atlanta); KSEV (Houston); 1500 AM (Washington D.C.); 1220-KDOW (San Francisco); and 1300-KKOL (Seattle).



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