



# Citizens' Climate Lobby

## **PROVE IT Act ([S.1863](#))**

The bipartisan Providing Reliable, Objective, Verifiable, Emissions Intensity and Transparency Act of 2023 (S.1863), or PROVE IT Act, has been introduced by Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.). The bill would require the Department of Energy (DOE) to study the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products — including aluminum, cement, crude oil, fertilizer, iron, steel, plastic, and others — that are produced in the United States and in certain covered countries.

Greenhouse gas emissions are a global issue and trade is one of the best tools we have to encourage other nations to reduce their emissions. A carbon border tariff or carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) that imposes a fee on the extra carbon content of imported carbon-intensive goods provides a strong incentive for foreign countries to reduce the carbon intensity of their industries. Since the carbon intensity of many U.S. industry products is among the lowest in the world, such a tariff or CBAM would protect U.S. industries from higher-polluting foreign competition.

The PROVE IT act is not a carbon border tariff, but it would lay the foundation for one by requiring the DOE to begin reporting on the national “average product emissions intensity” of certain products for the U.S. and other countries. Such information is a necessary first step to implementing a carbon border tariff or CBAM.

The European Union, the largest foreign market available to U.S. producers, will begin implementation of a CBAM on imports (including American exports to the E.U.) this year based on its existing carbon price. The E.U. will start its CBAM with a reporting requirement for carbon emissions that begins this year and will move to impose a fee in 2026 on imported carbon intensive products. It is important that America not be left behind as the E.U. and other trading partners move in this direction.

The PROVE IT act is an important bipartisan step to protect American industry and drive down global carbon pollution. Citizens' Climate Lobby urges all members of Congress to cosponsor PROVE IT Act.