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### **Few Jobs Assured for Women and Minorities in New Energy Bill**

The [Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Accountability Act](#) released by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Tuesday would create an estimated 150,000 jobs in home retrofitting, but the bill fails to include provisions that would ensure that some jobs go to members of population groups currently underrepresented in construction. The bill also does not contain “cap and trade” or other features that would require reduction of greenhouse gasses. See a summary [here](#).

Major [climate change bills that passed the House](#) last year and were introduced earlier this year in the Senate did provide for a Green Construction Careers Demonstration program, which WOW helped define so that women would be hired. The green demonstration provisions instruct the Secretary of Labor to establish certain percentages of low-income and underrepresented groups to be employed on designated projects. WOW helped craft language for the inclusive hiring project which also tied jobs to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship training programs with a track record for effective skill training and placement in quality jobs. The Reid energy bill does contain a section on workforce training (Section 2114, p. 244) for electricians, permitting officials, utility grid workers and other energy efficiency jobs resulting from a new Home Star energy efficiency rebates system.

Senator Reid’s bill was assembled as a compromise following the Senate’s inability to muster sufficient support from industrial and coal state Democrats, or any Republicans, to bring a stronger bill to the floor.