

12/07/2009

## Debating Cap and Trade

MetroNews  
Charleston

The debate over cap and trade took center stage Monday night at the University of Charleston.

Natural Resource Defense Council Climate Center Director David Hawkins stood in support of the policy while Cato Institute Senior Fellow Patrick Michaels told why the issue could be a detriment the United States economy.

"The purpose of cap and trade is to make energy so expensive that you will use less of it," Michaels told those sitting in U.C.'s Geary Auditorium.

However, Hawkins said that was not the case. He told the crowd that the policy is about opening new economic opportunities for the country.

"The facts of the legislation are it's not about making energy more expensive. It's about creating a new market. Markets are what make the economy grow," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said cap and trade will do what smaller processors did for the computer industry, but Michaels contends that the government did not intervene in that industry. The Cato Institute Fellow ended by saying the costs of the government intervention will eventually be passed on to the consumer.

The U.S. House of Representatives has already approved their version of the climate bill. The U.S. Senate continues to debate its measure.

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