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# EXEC REPORT

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**By Alliance President Alex Mills and Executive Vice President Bill Stevens**

The election of Republican **Scott Brown** to fill the seat formerly held by Senator **Ted Kennedy** dealt President Obama and House and Senate Leaders a major defeat in getting their health care and cap-and-trade legislation passed.

Brown had trailed his Democratic opponent by as much as 20 points two months before the election. Massachusetts is one of the most liberal and Democratic states in the nation. Kennedy was elected eight times and his Democratic colleague in the Senate, **John Kerry**, has been elected five times.

The Massachusetts House delegation includes 10 Democrats and zero Republicans, and includes such renowned House liberals as **Ed Markey** and **Barney Frank**.

Brown's surprising victory indicates that Americans want change; change from the programs offered by President Obama in his first year.

As far as energy policy is concerned, it is clear that the public's attitude has changed regarding global warming being caused primarily by humans. As a matter of fact, more and more people are having second thoughts about global warming. Recent revelations that scientists who support the global warming theory have twisted the data to support their position have cast doubts on the temperatures collected in previous studies. Also, the public realizes that the Earth's temperature during the last 10 years has actually declined not risen.

More and more citizens question their elected leaders about the wisdom of increasing the cost of energy, raising the cost of producing all goods and services to Americans from coast-to-coast, implementing a huge negative to the national economy when it is a recession, and taking jobs away from millions of Americans when the unemployment rate is above 10 percent.

More and more elected officials are getting the message that voters are very concerned about the economy, the federal debt, government give away programs, and jobs. Certainly, Democrats who represent districts that could go either way are very concerned about their future. That would include the Blue Dog Democrats, a group of about 52 members of the House that label themselves fiscally conservative, and about 10 Democratic Senators.

It appears at this point in time that radical energy legislation, like cap-and-trade, is in trouble. But many believe there will be another energy bill that will focus on conservation and subsidies for wind, solar, ethanol, etc. Also, the Obama Administration will continue to put pressure on the oil and natural gas industry on issues such as the Environmental Protection Agency enacting rules that will regulate man-made carbon dioxide, attempts to regulate hydraulic fracturing, restricting access to drilling prospects on public lands and federal offshore and increased taxation.

All 435 members of the House and 34 Senators (19 Republicans and 15 Democrats) are up for re-election. Will Obama, Pelosi and Reid push Democrats to make difficult votes and continue to put Democrats in jeopardy of being voted out of office? If the election in Massachusetts is any indication, a continuation of business-as-usual by the leadership could result in a massacre of Democrats.