



House of Representatives

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—MAY 2014

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Justices Back Rule Limiting Coal Pollution**—The Supreme Court upheld the authority of EPA to regulate the smog from coal plants that drifts across state lines from 28 Midwestern and Appalachian states to the East Coast.
- **Climate Efforts Falling Short, U.N. Panel Says**—A United Nations panel warned that governments are not doing enough to avert profound risks in coming decades. But the experts found a silver lining: Not only is there still time to head off the worst, but the political will to do so seems to be rising.
- **Obama to Challenge Private Companies to Boost Solar Power Use**—In an effort to make it easier for state, local, and tribal governments to expand their solar portfolios, the Energy Department is launching a \$15 million-dollar “Solar Market Pathways” program.
- **Feds to Provide \$4B in Green Energy Support**—The Energy Department is opening up \$4 billion in federal loan guarantees to projects that reduce or capture greenhouse gas emissions. The agency is looking for projects that will help advance electric grid integration with renewable sources, create more compatible biofuels, and turn waste into energy.
- **EPA Mercury Rule for Power Plants Upheld by U.S. Appeals Court**—Energy companies must abide by federal limits on mercury and additional power-plant pollutants, a U.S. court said, upholding a rule regulators say will save lives and the industry claims was illegally drafted.
- **Obama Administration Postpones Decision on Keystone XL Pipeline**—The Obama administration has postponed a decision by giving eight different agencies more time to submit their views on whether the pipeline from Canada’s oil sands to the Texas Gulf Coast would serve the national interest.

## SEEC Member Legislation

Member **Rick Nolan** (MN): *H.R. 4441, The American Pipeline Jobs & Safety Act*

Bill Summary: Would require pipelines regulated by the Secretary of Transportation to be made of steel that is produced in the United States and originates from iron ore and taconite mined and processed in the United States, for safety, and for other purposes. Although there are laws requiring the federal government to procure U.S. made products for projects using U.S. taxpayer funds, federally-permitted pipelines may be built with foreign steel.

## SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**EU Climate Commissioner Meets with SEEC**—The European Union’s Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard met with the Coalition to discuss efforts to address climate change and the 2015 UNFCCC negotiations in Paris. Co-Chair **Paul Tonko** (NY) led the discussion and penned an op-ed about it: [“Don’t Undervalue Importance of Co-benefits.”](#)

### **Earth Day Op-Eds:**

- Co-Chair **Gerry Connolly** [“Action on climate change is crucial”](#)
- Climate Task Force Chair **Scott Peters** (CA) [“Take a Moment for Earth Day, Our Planet Is Depending on Us”](#)
- Member **Jackie Speier** (CA) [“Earth Day: Treat Climate Change Like a Security Threat”](#)

### **Other Op-Eds:**

- Climate Task Force Chair **Scott Peters** (CA) [“Solar industry successful and growing in California”](#)
- Member **Alan Lowenthal** (CA) [“Where Can Environmental Policies Enable Efficiency and Profits?”](#)

**Bill Would Establishes ‘Victory Bonds’ for Clean Energy Investment**—Vice Chair **Doris Matsui** (CA) and Member **Zoe Lofgren** (CA) introduced H.R. 4426, a bill to create a bond program that would sell bonds to pay for clean energy tax incentives.

**Tar-sands Oil Concern Prompts Letter from Congressional Delegation**—The possibility of Portland Pipe Line Corp. reversing flow on its pipeline across North Country to bring tar-sands oil from Canada to Maine prompted a call from Members **Carol Shea-Porter**, **Ann McLane Kuster**, and the rest of the New Hampshire Congressional delegation to require the company to seek a new presidential permit.

### **Video: What If House Republicans Cared about Climate Change?**

Have you ever envisioned an alternate reality in which the majority of House Republicans not only accepted the reality of man-made climate change but also saw it as an urgent national priority? Now you can, thanks to this [mashup](#) from Member **Jared Huffman** (CA).

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **418:** Percent by which solar energy has grown in the United States in the last four years.
- ◆ **\$5.15 Billion:** Fine issued by the Justice Department and EPA to an Anadarko Petroleum subsidiary, the largest pollution cleanup settlement in history.
- ◆ **4.6 Million:** Number of children who attend a school located within a mile of a facility that stores potentially risky chemicals.
- ◆ **70:** Number of leading companies, such as Unilever, Shell, BT, and EDF Energy, that are calling for governments to step up action on climate change.
- ◆ **900:** Number of environmental activists killed in the last decade.

## SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

**Julia Brownley** @JuliaBrownley26: On this #EarthDay, let’s remember that we can protect environment and #ActOnClimate while creating green jobs.  
@SEEC <http://www.epa.gov/earthday>

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