



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2014

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Obama Orders Federal Government To Triple Its Use Of Renewable Energy**—President Barack Obama is ordering the federal government to nearly triple its use of renewable sources for electricity by 2020.
- **Justices Hear Case on Cross-State Pollution Rules**—The Supreme Court heard arguments in a case over how to hold states responsible for air pollution that drifts across their borders and causes harm in downwind states.
- **Janet McCabe to Get Top EPA Pollution Regulator Nod**—President Obama announced plans to nominate Janet McCabe to a top post at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Obama intends to nominate McCabe as assistant administrator for the agency's Office of Air and Radiation, a post she has been occupying in the acting capacity.
- **Podesta Will Plug-In to Energy and Climate Policy**—The White House has said energy and climate policy would be a particular focus for John Podesta during his one-year stint as counsel.
- **There Could Be Happy Green News Hidden in the Budget Deal**—The Bipartisan Budget Act does not specify how much money would go to each government program, only that \$63 billion that would have been cut from federal discretionary spending over the next two years will instead be replaced. About half of the spending will go to defense, and half to domestic agencies, including environmental programs.
- **Baucus Proposes Overhaul for Clean-Energy Tax Breaks**—Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (MT) proposed consolidating or wiping out scores of tax breaks the government offers to promote clean energy and efficiency. SEEC Leaders [called](#) for an extension of these credits.

SEEC ENDORSED LEGISLATION

- ◆ **H.R. 1630:** Red Rock Wilderness Act (Holt)
- ◆ **H.R. 2023:** Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act (Capps)

To learn more about SEEC endorsements or to see a full list of endorsed legislation, please visit our [website](#).

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members Discuss Fracking—SEEC Members met with former and current state regulators from California, Colorado, Illinois, and Pennsylvania to learn about state efforts with respect to hydraulic fracturing.

Energy Secretary Talks with SEEC—Secretary Moniz joined SEEC Members for a conversation about the Department's latest energy, efficiency, and climate change efforts.

Leadership Pushes for Extension of Clean-Energy Tax Credits—SEEC Leaders [wrote](#) to House Ways and Means Committee leadership calling for an extension of a slate of clean-energy tax credits currently on the chopping block. The move was timed to coincide with the release of a nearly identical letter sent by a coalition of Democratic and independent senators to Senate Finance Committee leadership.

Bill Passed to Prevent Interruption of Fire Hydrant Service—The President signed into law H.R. 2588, the Community Fire Safety Act, a bipartisan bill by **SEEC Co-Chair Rep. Paul Tonko** (NY) and Rep. Bill Johnson (OH). The bill exempts fire hydrants from being covered under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Previous law would have banned the installation of non-compliant hydrants after January 4, 2014, leaving towns no option to replace hydrants in the event of an emergency.

Members Introduce 25x25 RES Bill—SEEC Vice-Chair Rep. **Jared Polis** (CO), SEEC Member Rep. **Ann McLane Kuster** (NH), and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (NM) introduced legislation to require utilities to generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025. It would apply the renewable energy standard concept — already in place in 29 states — to the entire country.

Lawmakers Urge EPA to Act Fast on Greenhouse Gas—Sen. Tom Carper (DE) and SEEC Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA), along with 16 other lawmakers, urged EPA to accelerate "commonsense policies" that curb greenhouse gases used in conditioners, refrigerators, and other equipment.

Members Press Obama to Halt Keystone XL Review—In an effort led by SEEC Member Rep. **Raúl Grijalva** (AZ), 24 House Democrats sent a letter to Obama, highlighting "serious corporate conflicts of interest" in State's preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) on TransCanada's proposed pipeline.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **71:** Percentage of Americans who say they are seeing the effects of global warming.
- ◆ **7,000:** Global warming potential of a newly discovered gas, perfluorotributylamine (PFTBA), that has been in use by the electrical industry since the mid-20th century.
- ◆ **23.6:** Average miles per gallon for vehicles produced in 2012, a 1.2 mile increase over 2011 and the second largest increase in the past 30 years.
- ◆ **2070:** Year by which NASA predicts that the ozone layer will fully recover.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

Rep. **Brad Schneider** [@RepSchneider](#): President announcing gov to get 20% of energy from renewables by 2020 is good step forward in fighting climate change

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