



House of Representatives

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2013

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **McCarthy Sworn in at EPA after Senate Vote**—Gina McCarthy was sworn in as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The swearing in took place a day after the Senate confirmed McCarthy in a 59-40 vote.
- **EPA Sends Climate Rule to White House**—The agency has sent the White House a new draft of its proposed greenhouse gas rule for future power plants—less than a week after Obama announced he was ordering the EPA to undertake a huge effort to throttle carbon pollution from the power industry.
- **Poll Finds Broad Public Support for Obama's Climate Change Plan**—A bipartisan national poll found two-thirds of registered voters approve of setting limits on carbon emissions from existing power plants.
- **Record Heat And Drought Fuel Chaotic Wildfire In Arizona, Killing 19 Firefighters**—19 firefighters were killed when they were fighting a wildfire southwest of Prescott, AZ after winds shifted direction. This is the single deadliest incident for US firefighters since September 11th, 2001.
- **Quebec Rail Disaster Seen Jump-Starting Safe Push**—A runaway oil train that killed scores of people when it slammed into a Quebec town is bringing renewed calls from the US and Canada for tougher safety rules for railroads.
- **Climate Change Will Cause More Energy Breakdowns, US Warns**—The nation's entire energy system is vulnerable to increasingly severe and costly weather events driven by climate change, according to a [DOE report](#).
- **Sponsors Pare Back Energy Efficiency Bill Ahead of Senate Debate**—The co-sponsors of comprehensive energy efficiency legislation have scaled back their bill ahead of its scheduled date with the Senate floor this week. A vote is expected after the August recess.

## SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

**Member Matt Cartwright (PA):** *H.R. 2825, Closing Loopholes and Ending Arbitrary and Needless Evasion of Regulations (CLEANER) Act*

Bill Summary: Eliminates a loophole under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act that exempts oil and natural gas companies from adhering to the waste disposal requirements set forth by the law.

## SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Long-time Conservationist, Environmental Advocate Joins Coalition**—SEEC welcomes to its ranks freshman [Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster](#) of New Hampshire's 2nd Congressional District. The Congresswoman and her family have a long history of supporting conservation and environmental stewardship in New Hampshire and her membership in SEEC will continue this legacy.

**White House Climate Advisor Tells SEEC What's Coming**—Heather Zichal had a [sit-down](#) with SEEC Members on Capitol Hill. The SEEC lawmakers told Zichal it was important to highlight local efforts to mitigate climate change and protect people from extreme weather events associated with it.

**SEEC to President: "The Time to Act is Now and We Applaud Your Leadership"**: 44 SEEC Members sent a [letter](#) to President Obama commending him for his leadership on climate change, exhibited through his recently announced Climate Action Plan. The letter notes components of the President's plan for which SEEC Members have advocated and affirms the Coalition's commitment to addressing climate change.

**Republican Bill Pulls the Plug on America's Clean Energy Future**—The House passed its Fiscal Year 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill on a mostly party line vote of 227 to 198 despite [strong objections](#) from SEEC Members and under the threat of veto from the White House. SEEC Members offered amendments to restore funding to EERE, ARPA-E, and ensure protection of America's water sources.

**Expansion of California Coastal National Monument Passes the House**—The House [passed](#) SEEC Member **Rep. Jared Huffman's** H.R. 1411, California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act. Huffman's bill expands the California Coastal National Monument by 1,255 acres through the addition of Mendocino's Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands.

**Markey's Heirs: With Mentor Now in Senate, A New Generation Prepares to Step up on Environment and Energy:** Markey's departure has cast a [spotlight](#) on the growing number of ambitious junior House Democrats, who have brought extensive background in dealing with climate policy before they entered Congress and a desire to spur significant action. Includes SEEC Co-Chair **Paul Tonko** (NY), Vice-Chair **Jared Polis** (CO), and Members **Donna Edwards** (MD) and **Jared Huffman** (CA).

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **340:** Months that temperatures have been warmer-than-average, a period of time longer than 28 years.
- ◆ **155%:** Increase in US clean energy investments during the second quarter of this year, for a total of \$9.5 billion.
- ◆ **27%:** Increase in state energy efficiency budgets, totaling \$6.9 billion last year. It is estimated that budgets could exceed \$14 billion by 2025.
- ◆ **\$24.3 billion:** Amount in the Fiscal Year 2014 House Interior-Environment Appropriations bill. The Senate counterpart contains \$30.8 billion.
- ◆ **\$100 million:** Value of the natural gas flared each month by oil drillers in the Bakken region. Drillers flare nearly 1/3 of the gas they extract.

## SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

[Rep. Scott Peters @RepScottPeters](#) Good to meet with [@whitehouse](#) staff & [@SEEC](#) colleagues to hear about the administration's efforts to address climate

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