



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Obama's climate remarks earn praise from key Dems, interest groups**—President Obama used his second inaugural address to call for action on climate change as well as support for renewable energy, earning praise from congressional Democrats. Members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) pledged their support for legislative plans.
- **Energy Secretary Steven Chu to Resign**—Energy Secretary Steven Chu is stepping down, ending a four-year tenure marked by milestones in green-energy spending along with withering attacks from Republicans.
- **Interior Secretary Salazar to Leave in March**—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will leave his post in March. Salazar spent much of his tenure focused on energy issues, including promoting renewable energy, as well as dealing with the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- **U.S. 2012 Wind Power Reached Record 13,124 Megawatts, Beats Gas**—U.S. wind-energy developers added a record 13,124 megawatts of turbines last year, beating natural gas to become the largest new source of power generation for the first time.
- **140 Nations Sign Binding Treaty on Emission Curbs**—More than 140 countries agreed to a treaty to curb mercury pollution. The agreement is the first legally binding treaty on mercury emissions controls.
- **Gasoline Rule Emerges From Election-Year Obscurity**—After facing election-year delays, an environmental rule requiring cleaner gasoline is now back in the regulatory pipeline.
- **State Department Delays Keystone Pipeline Decision**—The Obama administration has delayed a decision on TransCanada Corp's rerouted Keystone XL oil pipeline until after March, even though Nebraska's governor on Tuesday approved a plan for part of the line running through his state.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Vice-Chair Rep. Doris Matsui: *H.R. 400 Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act*

Bill Summary: To provide for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist United States businesses with exporting clean energy technology products and services.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reps. Moran and Huffman join SEEC—[Jim Moran](#) (VA), ranking member of the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, and [Jared Huffman](#) (CA), a new freshman member on the Natural Resources Committee, joined the Coalition.

SEEC Members Praised President's Climate Change Remarks—Members released a [statement](#) following the President's inaugural remarks that "we will respond to the threat of climate change" affirming that they stand ready to work with him tackle this great challenge.

Urged Treasury, IRS to Act Swiftly in Issuing Renewable Energy Credit Guidance—30 SEEC Members [wrote](#) to the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service to ask that they provide clarification to the new PTC language. Members included co-chairs **Paul Tonko** (NY), **Steve Israel** (NY), and **Gerry Connolly** (VA); vice-chairs **Jared Polis** (CO), **Rush Holt** (NJ), **Doris Matsui** (CA), and **Chellie Pingree** (ME); and **John Larson** (CT), **Raul Grijalva** (AZ), **Mike Honda** (CA), **Steve Cohen** (TN), **Keith Ellison** (MN), **Niki Tsongas** (MA), **Lois Capps** (CA), **Earl Blumenauer** (OR), **Jan Schakowsky** (IL), **Emanuel Cleaver** (MO), **Jim Langevin** (RI), **Donna Edwards** (MD), **Barbara Lee** (CA), **Dave Loebsack** (IA), **Ed Perlmutter** (CO), **Jim Moran** (VA), **Jared Huffman** (CA), **Judy Chu** (CA), **Chris Van Hollen** (MD), **Bill Keating** (MA), **George Miller** (CA), **Tim Ryan** (OH), and **Mike Quigley** (IL).

Called for an Investigation of Arctic Rig Accident—Following the grounding of Shell's Kulluk drilling rig, SEEC Members [called on](#) the Department of the Interior and the United States Coast Guard to investigate the accident and other similar distressing incidents.

Continuing to Raise Concern About Sequestration—SEEC Members continued [echoing](#) their concern about sequestrations impact to energy and environmental programs, suggesting offsets consider ending oil-and-gas tax incentives to cover some of the cost of reversing sequestration.

Protecting Coal Mining Communities: SEEC Member **Louise Slaughter** (NY) and Rep. John Yarmouth (KY) introduced the Appalachian Community Health Emergency Act to require HHS to conduct a comprehensive study of the health effects of mountaintop removal mining. It also places a moratorium on new mountaintop removal mining projects until federal health officials can properly assess those health effects, which are the subject of new and compelling scientific study.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **161:** Number of words President Obama used to speak on climate change in his Inaugural address.
- ◆ **55.32:** Average U.S. temperature in 2012, a full degree warmer than the previous record set in 1998.
- ◆ **\$160,000,000,000:** Amount natural disasters cost the global economy in 2012.
- ◆ **\$700,000,000,000:** Amount world must spend each year to curb its addiction to fossil fuels, according to a World Economic Forum study.
- ◆ **1st:** Washington, DC's rank in the United States for most LEED-certified buildings in 2012.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

@RepLoisCapps: [#NationalClimateAssessment](#) reiterates need to take action to address climate change. Smart policies needed now to protect [#CentralCoast](#).

[Daily Clips](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

For SEEC Member distribution only. Not for attribution without permission.