



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—JULY 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Obama Urges Action on Climate**—President Barack Obama laid out his plan to combat climate change, instructing his administration to move forward with rules on power plants and energy efficiency.
- **US and China Working to Reduce Potent Heat-Trapping Pollutant**—The White House announced that President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping have forged an agreement to reduce the use of a short-lived, but highly potent heat-trapping pollutant.
- **Justices Take up Air Pollution Rules**—The Supreme Court will review a lower court decision that nullified EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, aimed at cutting soot- and smog-forming power plant emissions that cross state lines.
- **EPA Abandons Study That Linked Fracking, Wyoming Water Pollution**—EPA said that it won't finalize a draft 2011 study that concluded water pollution in a Wyoming region might stem from hydraulic fracturing.
- **Dems Blast GOP for Slashing Renewable Energy Spending**—House Democrats on the Appropriations Committee blasted their Republican counterparts for cutting Energy Department spending on renewable energy by 50 percent. The committee moved a bill that would cut \$911 million in spending on renewable energy research and development.
- **Climate Change-Poverty Link Highlighted In World Bank Report**—By the 2030s, 40 percent of the land used to grow maize in sub-Saharan Africa will be unable to sustain that crop because of droughts and heat. Also by that time, sea level rise coupled with more intense cyclones could inundate much of Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

SEEC ENDORSED LEGISLATION

- ◆ **H.R. 474**, Complete America's Great Trails Act (Connolly)
- ◆ **H.R. 764**, Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act (Capps)
- ◆ **H.R. 1154**, Bringing Reductions to Energy's Airborne Toxic Health Effects (BREATHE) Act (Polis)
- ◆ **H.R. 1175**: The Focused Reduction of Effluence and Stormwater through Hydrofracking Environment Regulation (FRESHER) (Cartwright)

To learn more about SEEC endorsements, please visit our [website](#).

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Entrepreneur and Business Leader Joins SEEC—The Coalition added Rep. [John K. Delaney](#) of Maryland's 6th Congressional District, bringing total membership to 51.

Energy Sector Reacts to Obama Climate Change Plan—SEEC released a [statement](#) welcoming the provisions of the president's plan. "SEEC welcomes the President's plan to reduce carbon pollution and curb the threat of climate change. The effects of climate change are already beginning to show, evidenced by recent extreme wildfires, floods, droughts, and hurricanes, and are coming at a high cost to the American people. Addressing this issue is a moral and fiscal imperative," according to SEEC. *Statements from SEEC Members:* [Rep. Paul Tonko \(NY\)](#); [Rep. Rush Holt \(NJ\)](#); [Rep. Doris Matsui \(CA\)](#); [Rep. Scott Peters \(CA\)](#); [Rep. Lois Capps \(CA\)](#); [Rep. Matt Cartwright \(PA\)](#); [Rep. Donna Christensen \(VI\)](#); [Rep. John Delaney \(MD\)](#); [Rep. Keith Ellison \(MN\)](#); [Rep. Raul Grijalva \(AZ\)](#); [Rep. Colleen Hanabusa \(HI\)](#); [Rep. Jared Huffman \(CA\)](#); [Rep. Barbara Lee \(CA\)](#); [Rep. George Miller \(CA\)](#); [Rep. Jim Moran \(VA\)](#); [Rep. Mike Quigley \(IL\)](#); [Rep. John Sarbanes \(MD\)](#); [Rep. Jan Schakowsky \(IL\)](#)

In Huffington Post: "The Moral and Economic Case for Climate Action"—SEEC Member Rep. [Earl Blumenauer](#) (OR) penned an [op-ed](#) about the President's climate change plan.

SEEC Meets with DoD—Members met with representatives from the Office of the Secretary as well as the Army and Navy to discuss how the Department of Defense is using renewable energy and energy efficiency to improve mission effectiveness.

SEEC Fights Back against More Big Oil Giveaways—SEEC Members actively [pushed back](#) against H.R. 2231, which would recklessly open up more coastlines to offshore drilling. Co-Chair Rep. [Gerry Connolly](#) (VA) offered an amendment to undo a provision that required only one environmental evaluation for all new drilling areas; SEEC Member Rep. [Lois Capps](#) (CA) offered an [amendment](#) to protect the Central Coast of California from drilling; and SEEC Member Rep. [Brad Schneider](#) (IL) offered the motion to recommit the bill with instructions to ensure the protection of the Great Lakes from irresponsible drilling exploration.

Environment Task Force Chair Named to Advisory Board—SEEC's Environment Task Force Chair Rep. [Judy Chu](#) (CA) was recently named to the Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild) Advisory Board.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **2016**: Year when renewable energy will edge out natural gas as the second biggest source of electricity (behind coal), according to IEA.
- ◆ **\$110 billion**: Estimated cost of damages from 2012 extreme weather events, making it the second costliest year according to NOAA.
- ◆ **137**: Days that Bob Perciasepe has been acting EPA administrator, breaking a 40-year-old record of 136 days between the 1st and 2nd EPA administrators.
- ◆ **\$780 billion**: Amount U.S. businesses could save over 10 years by reducing emissions 3 percent, according to the Carbon Disclosure Project and WWF.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

[@RepMikeHonda](#): As a member of [@SEEC](#), I welcome Obama's plan to address the threat of human-made [#climatechange](#) [#ActonClimate](#) <http://1.usa.gov/19zhQO8>

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

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