



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—JULY 2014

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Bipartisan Report Tallies High Toll on Economy from Global Warming**—More than a million homes and businesses along the nation's coasts could flood repeatedly before ultimately being destroyed. Entire states in the Southeast and the Corn Belt may lose much of their agriculture as farming shifts northward in a warming world.
- **Justices Uphold Emission Limits on Big Industry**—The Supreme Court effectively endorsed the Obama administration's efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from sources like power plants, even as it criticized what it called the administration's overreaching.
- **Must-Pass Budget Bill Stalls over Global-Warming Fight**—With a White House veto threat looming, top Senate Democrats froze progress on a key spending bill. At issue: a Republican attempt to attach language to the measure that would block President Obama's plan to use the EPA to address power plants' contributions to global warming.
- **Obama Will Propose Vast Expansion of Pacific Ocean Marine Sanctuary**—The President announced his intent to make a broad swath of the central Pacific Ocean off-limits to fishing, energy exploration, and other activities.
- **U.S. Companies Preparing for Climate Change**—Businesses across the U.S. are factoring global warming into their financial planning, according to a report by the Carbon Disclosure Project. The report, which examines 173 S&P 500 companies in nine different states, found that all companies expect some form of regulation to mitigate climate change.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Member Rep. **Derek Kilmer** (WA): *H.R. 4732, the Ocean Acidification Innovation Act*

Bill Summary: Encourages federal agencies to use existing funds to design prize competitions in order to increase the ability to manage, research, and monitor ocean acidification and its impacts.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Scott Brings Climate Awareness to New Heights in Joining SEEC—The Coalition added Rep. **Robert C. "Bobby" Scott** (VA) to its ranks, growing total membership to 57, the group's largest size since its inception.

EPA Discusses Clean Power Plan—Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation Janet McCabe and Associate Assistant Administrator & Senior Counsel Joe Goffman joined SEEC Members for a conversation about EPA's recently announced carbon pollution standard for existing power plants.

Members Demonstrate Support for Clean Power Plan on Floor—Led by SEEC Member **Earl Blumenauer** (OR), Members **John Sarbanes** (MD), **John Delaney** (MD), and **Jim Moran** (VA) took to the House floor to highlight the need for EPA's proposal to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants.

House Passes SEEC Endorsed Bill—Member **Matt Cartwright's** (PA) bill H.R. 4092, recently **endorsed** by the Coalition, would establish an office within the Department of Energy to coordinate federal, state, and local programs to help schools become more energy efficient. The bill passed on June 23 by voice vote.

Push Back on Drill, Baby, Drill—House Republicans brought up H.R. 4899, a package of two previously passed bills, claiming it would reduce gas prices. SEEC Members offered amendments including one from Vice-Chairs **Rush Holt** (NJ) and **Chellie Pingree** (ME), Energy Task Force Chair **Jim Langevin** (RI), Climate Task Force Chair **Scott Peters** (CA), Members **Alan Lowenthal** (CA), **Lois Capps** (CA), **Mike Honda** (CA), **Carol Shea-Porter** (NH), and **Barbara Lee** (CA) to remove a limitation on the National Ocean Policy, one from Members **Lois Capps** (CA), **Julia Brownley** (CA), **Jared Huffman** (CA), and **Alan Lowenthal** (CA) that would require notice of oil and gas activities and one from Member **Earl Blumenauer** (OR) that would require companies to pay royalties.

Protect Public from Reckless Pipeline Approval—The House also considered H.R. 3301, a bill that would severely curtail review of cross-border fossil fuel pipelines. SEEC Members offered amendments including one from Vice-Chair **Chellie Pingree** (ME) and Members **Peter Welch** (VT), **Ann McLane Kuster** (NH), and **Carol Shea-Porter** (NH) to ensure pipeline modifications, such as flow reversal, receive a review and one from Member **Henry Waxman** (CA) that would exclude any project with a pending permit application from the bill. Member **Brad Schneider** (IL) offered the motion to recommit, which would have helped protect the Great Lakes and Ogallala Aquifer from pipeline spills by preserving important environmental reviews for new infrastructure projects.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **62 Percent:** Number of Americans who would pay more for energy if it reduced carbon pollution.
- ◆ **\$102.7 Million:** Amount the Department of the Interior is giving out to East Coast communities to help them improve their resiliency to storms.
- ◆ **40 Percent:** Number of high risk oil and gas wells that are not inspected by federal regulators.
- ◆ **\$200 Billion:** Amount spent globally on natural disasters each year, up from \$50 billion in the 1980s.
- ◆ **4 Million:** Number of animals shot, poisoned, snared, or trapped by the Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services in Fiscal Year 2013.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

Rep. **George Miller** @askgeorge WHAT A WHIFF! This week, House Republicans passed their "energy agenda" – another handout to big oil companies...
<http://fb.me/6PSj7TIHC>

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