



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—MARCH 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **In Address, A Pledge to Fight Global Warming**—President Obama used his State of the Union speech to offer a pledge to use executive actions to battle global warming if Congress won't pass a major climate bill.
- **Obama Nominated REI Chief Executive as Secretary of the Interior**—President Obama nominated Recreational Equipment (REI) chief executive Sally Jewell to head the Interior Department.
- **Thousands Rally in Washington to Protest Keystone Pipeline**—Tens of thousands of people converged on the National Mall to urge President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline, a project they say will cause irreparable damage to the climate.
- **100% of Electric Capacity Added in US Last Month was Renewable**—Every single megawatt of new generating capacity added in the US during January was renewable. Every single one.
- **Shell Calls Off 2013 Arctic Drilling**—Shell is calling off its plans to resume hunting for oil in Arctic waters north of Alaska this summer, after a problem-plagued drilling season that ended with the grounding of one of its rigs.
- **Gulf Oil Spill Trial Starts with Billions of Dollars at Stake for BP, Others**—Billions of dollars were at stake as a federal civil trial over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill started nearly three years after the deadly disaster.
- **GAO: Climate Change Poses Big Financial Risk to US Government**—The government is facing significant financial risks related to extreme weather events, and states and cities can no longer depend on it for extra help.
- **Obama Floats 'Energy Security Trust' in State of the Union Address** — President Obama proposed a program that would divert some revenues from federal oil-and-gas drilling into research for alternative fuel technology.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Rep. Chris Van Hollen: H.R. 699 Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now Act

Bill Summary: Averts the sequester until the end of the calendar year through a balanced plan containing \$120 billion in deficit reduction and repeal of several oil and gas subsidies, among other provisions. The bill removes a number of unnecessary and costly tax incentives that subsidize the major integrated oil companies.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEEC Members Echo President's Call for Climate Action—Members released a [statement](#) following the President's State of the Union, cheering his calls for action on climate change and urging him to double down on policies to support clean energy development and jobs.

Co-Chairs Detail What They Want to See During the President's Second Term—Co-Chairs Rep. **Paul Tonko** (NY) and Rep. **Gerry Conolly** (VA) [outlined](#) the need to: continue pushing for clean energy development and deployment; provide investors with certainty; address deficiencies in our electric grid; better prepare for extreme weather events by pursuing resiliency techniques; and tackle our changing climate.

Members Engage with ARPA-E—In conjunction with the ARPA-E annual energy innovation summit, SEEC Members engaged in a policy dialogue about ARPA-E's unique innovation model with ARPA-E deputy director Cheryl Martin, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and ARPA-E project performers from the University of Colorado at Boulder and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Vice-Chair: Mounting Evidence Demands Action to Combat Causes of Climate Change—SEEC Vice-Chair Rep. **Rush Holt** (NJ) [discusses](#) how uncertainty in science is not an excuse for inaction, especially with regard to climate change.

Co-Chair Gets "Bullish" on Energy Efficiency—"I firmly believe we can get something major done on energy efficiency," SEEC Co-Chair Rep. **Paul Tonko** (NY) shared at the ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit.

Vice-Chair Urges State to Require Presidential Permit for Oil Pipeline's Conversion to Tar Sands—Partnering with Senators Sanders, SEEC Vice-Chair Rep. **Chellie Pingree** (ME) [asked](#) the State Department to require a new Presidential Permit and full Environmental Impact Statement for the reversal of the Portland-Montreal Pipeline. The pipeline is decades old and was not designed to carry tars sands crude oil, which may elevate the risk of spills and other problems.

SEEC Member Urges President to Create Climate Mitigation Panel—Rep. **Lois Capps** (CA) spearheaded a letter to the President requesting that he appoint a blue ribbon panel on climate change mitigation to identify ways to help local communities prepare for extreme weather impacts.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **\$169,000,000,000:** Amount per year the energy bills of US businesses could be cut assuming aggressive promotion of energy efficiency programs
- ◆ **\$13.62:** Amount businesses paid per metric ton of carbon in California's second auction, \$2.91 above the reserve price
- ◆ **16:** Number of Coast Guard documented deficiencies of the Noble Discover, a Shell operated drillship used for Arctic drilling
- ◆ **33.3 percent:** Approximate percentage of seafood sold in restaurants and groceries that is mislabeled
- ◆ **\$118,000,000:** Amount (as of 2010) a secretive funding channel distributed to groups that have a record of denying the existence of climate change

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

@RepRaulGrijalva: How does [#GOP](#) think closings, fewer hours at natl parks will help businesses nationwide? [#StopTheSequester](#)
<http://1.usa.gov/1268md8> [#p2](#) [#AZ](#)

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