



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—MAY 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **EPA to Delay Emissions Rule at New Power Plants**—EPA said that it would delay issuance of a new rule limiting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from new power plants after the electric power industry objected on legal and technical grounds.
- **EPA Wants State Dept. to Rework Analysis of Keystone XL Pipeline**—EPA recommended that State reassess the amount of greenhouse gas that would be emitted by the development of oil sands as a result of the pipeline's construction.
- **Jewell Sworn in as Interior Chief**—Sally Jewell, the former chief executive of outdoor equipment retailer REI Inc., was sworn in as the 51st secretary of the interior.
- **IRS Sets Rules to Implement Law Extending Wind Power Tax Credit**—The IRS released guidance informing renewable-energy developers how the agency will determine eligibility for the modified production tax credit.
- **EPA Proposes Water Pollution Rules for Power Plants**—EPA proposed new regulations that aim to reduce water pollution near nuclear and fossil fuel-fired power plants.
- **Court Hands EPA a Victory in Fight Against Mountaintop Removal Mining**—EPA won an important legal victory over a coal mining project in West Virginia known as Spruce Mine. The case tests whether EPA can revoke a permit for mountaintop mining after another federal agency granted approval.
- **White House Finalizes National Ocean Policy**—The White House issued its final plan for managing the oceans, outlining a strategy to coordinate the work of more than two dozen agencies and reconcile competing interests including fishing, offshore energy exploration, and recreational activities.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Co-Chair Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA): *H.R. 474 Complete America's Great Trails Act*

Bill Summary: Provides private property owners with tax incentives to dedicate public access and conservation easements in order to close gaps in our National Scenic Trails and protect them from development.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reps. Peters, Schneider, and Waxman Join SEEC—This month, the Coalition added Rep. [Scott Peters](#) (CA), a new freshman member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Rep. [Brad Schneider](#) (IL), a new freshman member of the Foreign Affairs and Small Business committees, and Rep. [Henry Waxman](#) (CA), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. SEEC now has 49 members in total.

SEEC Announces Leadership for Climate, Energy, and Environment Task Forces—Rep. [Jim Langevin](#) (RI) will serve as Chair of the Energy Task Force; Rep. [Judy Chu](#) (CA) will serve as Chair of the Environment Task Force; and Rep. [Scott Peters](#) (CA) will serve as Chair of the Climate Task Force. These [task forces](#) will help to drive and focus SEEC's efforts to generate innovative policy proposals that promote clean energy technology, protect our natural environment, and address climate change.

Coalition Meets with Top White House Energy and Climate Advisor—SEEC Members [met](#) this month with Heather Zichal, the Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change. The meeting was a conversation regarding the administration's energy and climate goals.

Members Meet with Steyer—This month, SEEC Members also met with businessman and clean energy advocate Tom Steyer. The meeting presented an opportunity to discuss mutual policy priorities and opportunities for collaboration.

House Passes Measure to Extend Helium Supply—Led in part by SEEC Vice-Chair Rep. [Rush Holt](#) (NJ), the House passed a bill to extend the supply of helium available through the National Helium Reserve.

American Battlefield Protection Act Sails through the House—SEEC Vice-Chair Rep. [Rush Holt's](#) (NJ) bill to reauthorize the Civil War battlefield protection competitive grant program and expand the program to include the preservation of battlefields from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 successfully passed out the House.

Climate Change Resolution Introduced—SEEC Member Rep. [Barbara Lee](#) (CA) introduced a [resolution](#) "recognizing the disparate impact of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change."

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **82 percent:** Total of new electrical generating capacity that came from renewable energy during the first quarter of 2013.
- ◆ **100 percent:** Total of new electrical generating capacity that came from solar energy during the month of March.
- ◆ **\$136 billion:** Amount the Federal government spent on disaster relief between 2011 and 2013, averaging about \$400 per household.
- ◆ **80 percent:** Portion of the American population that has been hit by extreme weather disasters since 2007.
- ◆ **40 percent:** Portion of the American population that lives in counties with unhealthy levels of particle or ozone pollution.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

@RepSchneider: Happy [#EarthDay](#)! We have a duty to our next generation to be responsible stewards of our natural resources and environment.

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