



House of Representatives

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2013

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **McCarthy Sworn in at EPA after Senate Vote**—Gina McCarthy was sworn in as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The swearing in took place a day after the Senate confirmed McCarthy in a 59-40 vote.
- **Climate Panel Says Upper Limit on Emissions Is Nearing**—For the first time, the world's top climate scientists formally embraced an upper limit on greenhouse gases while warning that it is likely to be exceeded within decades if emissions continue at a brisk pace.
- **Administration to Press Ahead with Carbon Limit**—Ms. McCarthy unveiled the agency's proposal to limit new gas-fired power plants to 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt-hour and new coal plants to 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- **Death Toll in Colorado Floods Rises to Eight, at Least 1,600 Homes Destroyed**—Search-and-rescue teams bolstered by National Guard troops fanned out across Colorado's flood-stricken landscape, as a week of torrential rains blamed for eight deaths and the destruction of at least 1,600 homes finally gave way to sunny skies.
- **Energy Dept. Unveils New Efficiency Regs**—The Obama administration proposed a pair of energy efficiency regulations for certain appliances it says will slash energy bills and carbon emissions. The rules would affect commercial refrigeration equipment and walk-in coolers and freezers.
- **House Panel Votes to Send Water Resources Bill to the Floor**—The bill's approval came after months of effort by Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) and other panel leaders to craft a bipartisan measure, HR 3080, that would authorize new water projects, deauthorize languishing ones, and institute reforms of the Army Corps of Engineers' processes without using earmarks.

## SEEC ENDORSED LEGISLATION

- ◆ **H.R. 1350**, Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act (Grijalva)
- ◆ **H.R. 1351**, Public Lands Service Corps (Grijalva)
- ◆ **H.R. 1890**, Balancing Food, Farm, and the Environment (Balancing) Act (Blumenauer)

To learn more about SEEC endorsements or to see a full list of endorsed legislation, please visit our [website](#).

## SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**4 New Members Join, SEEC Grows to 56**—SEEC welcomes Reps. [Carol Shea-Porter](#) (NH-01), [Dr. Raul Ruiz](#) (CA-36), [Alan Lowenthal](#) (CA-47), and [Derek Kilmer](#) (WA-06). Reps. Shea-Porter, Ruiz, and Lowenthal are members of the House Natural Resources Committee; Rep. Kilmer is a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. With their membership, SEEC has grown by 12 members this year, making it the second largest Democratic caucus.

**SEEC Meets with Green Group CEOs**—Coalition members met with the heads of 17 environmental and public health organizations to discuss climate change and efforts around the President's Climate Action Plan as well as funding for the Department of the Interior and the EPA.

**Interior Secretary Talks with SEEC**—Members had the opportunity to sit down with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. The Secretary briefed members on some of the energy, environmental, and climate efforts going on at the Department.

**Coalition Applauds Carbon Pollution Rule Announcement**—Following the EPA's issuance of a new draft rule for carbon pollution from future power plants, SEEC issued the following [statement](#): "Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution, and, as recent extreme weather events prove, there are costly consequences if we continue to allow unlimited amounts of carbon pollution to spew into our atmosphere. These consequences will only grow more expensive and more destructive the longer we wait to take action. We applaud the Administration for moving forward, using the tools they have available, to address climate change. Our kids and grandkids are counting on us to protect the planet they will inherit from us." Individual member support came from: Co-Chair Rep. [Paul Tonko](#) (NY); Vice-Chair Rep. [Doris Matsui](#) (CA); Members Reps. [Barbara Lee](#) (CA), [Lois Capps](#) (CA), [Mike Quigley](#) (IL), [Jared Huffman](#) (CA), [David Price](#) (NC), [Niki Tsongas](#) (MA), [Alan Lowenthal](#) (CA), [Annie Kuster](#) (NH), [Susan Davis](#) (CA), and [Keith Ellison](#) (MN).

**SUPER Act Endorsed by City of San Diego Council**—The San Diego City Council unanimously [passed a resolution](#) demonstrating the support of the City for SEEC Climate Task Force Chair Rep. [Scott Peter's](#) (CA) bill [HR 1943](#), the Super Pollutant Emissions Reduction (SUPER) Act. The bill is aimed at combating superpollutants, which are some of the most significant drivers of global climate change.

## TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **73%**: Amount of the nation's publicly traded companies that are ignoring a three-year-old Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that they inform investors of the risks that climate change may pose to their bottom lines.
- ◆ **20%**: Expected increase in solar capacity this year in comparison to last year.
- ◆ **\$7 billion**: Amount of money that the western U.S. could save in fossil-fuel costs by using high amounts of wind and solar energy power.
- ◆ **One-third**: Percentage of food that is wasted globally, making food waste the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

## SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

**Lois Capps @RepLoisCapps**: New IPCC report out today continuing to sound the alarm on climate change. Time for Republicans to stop denying science and #ActOnClimate.

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