



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2014

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Obama Urges Action on Climate “While We Still Can”**—Speaking before more than 120 officials, the president cited more frequent droughts and flooding in warning, “The climate is changing faster than our efforts to address it.”
- **Obama U.N. Speech Included New Executive Order on Climate and International Development**—President Barack Obama announced a new executive order directing federal agencies to consider climate change in all international development programs.
- **Obama Expands Pacific Ocean Preserve, Making It Largest in The World**—President Obama is carving out a swath of the Pacific Ocean for an expanded marine preserve, putting the waters off-limits to drilling and most fishing in a bid to protect fragile underwater life.
- **Hundreds of Thousands Turn Out for People’s Climate March in New York City**—More than 400,000 people turned out for the People’s Climate March, days before the United Nations climate summit.
- **EPA Extends Comment Period on Proposed Carbon Rule**—The EPA is extending the deadline by 45 days for the public to comment on the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants.
- **Fixing Climate Change May Add No Costs, Report Says**—In decades of public debate about global warming, one assumption has been accepted by virtually all factions: that tackling it would necessarily be costly. But a new report declares that the necessary fixes could wind up being effectively free.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Members Rep. **Barbara Lee** (CA) and Rep. **Mike Honda** (CA): H.R. 5494, *Incentives for our Nation’s Veterans in Energy Sustainability Technologies (INVEST) Act*

Bill Summary: This bill will expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which currently grants a tax credit to employers who hire veterans that meet certain criteria. It also extends WOTC eligibility to employers who hire veterans with a certification for renewable energy technology or have used their Montgomery GI bill to complete vocational training in renewable energy fields.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

How Much Do Disasters Cost?—Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA) along with SEEC Co-Chairs Reps. **Gerry Connolly** (VA), **Steve Israel** (NY), and **Paul Tonko** (NY) introduced “[Disclosing Aid Spent to Ensure Relief \(DISASTER\) Act](#),” legislation to provide transparency on how much federal money is spent on natural disaster response and where it is being spent.

Security, Diplomacy Focus of Member Meeting—SEEC Members spoke with Vice Admiral Lee Gunn of the Center for Naval Analyses and Nigel Purvis of Climate Advisors to learn more about the impacts climate change already poses to national and international security as well as diplomatic efforts.

Member Statements on People’s Climate March and UN Climate Summit: 23 SEEC Members [paid tribute](#) to the People’s Climate March and UN Climate Summit, including Co-Chair Rep. **Paul Tonko** (NY), Co-Chair Rep. **Gerry Connolly** (VA), Vice-Chair Rep. **Chellie Pingree** (ME), Vice-Chair Rep. **Doris Matsui** (CA), Vice-Chair Rep. **Rush Holt** (NJ), Energy Task Force Chair Rep. **Jim Langevin** (RI), Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA), Members Rep. **Lois Capps** (CA), Rep. **John Sarbanes** (MD), Rep. **Jackie Speier** (CA), Rep. **Earl Blumenauer** (OR), Rep. **Mike Quigley** (IL), Rep. **David Price** (NC), Rep. **Raul Grijalva** (AZ), Rep. **Alan Lowenthal** (CA), Rep. **Jim McGovern** (MA), Rep. **Keith Ellison** (MN), Rep. **Emanuel Cleaver** (MO), Rep. **Carol Shea-Porter** (NH), Rep. **Mike Honda** (CA), Rep. **Chris Van Hollen** (MD), Rep. **Bobby Scott** (VA), and Rep. **Jim McDermott** (WA).

House GOP Recycles Failed Energy Policy—In response to House Republicans’ passage of already considered big oil energy bills, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) [said](#), “While this package demonstrates that House Republicans are capable of recycling, it seems that, unfortunately, their recycling is limited to bad bill ideas.”

Statement on Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary—On the anniversary of the Wilderness Act, SEEC [reaffirmed](#) that “we will continue fighting to set aside more of our nation’s special places as wilderness areas. And it is our sincere hope that our colleagues will join us in this effort and continue Congress’s tradition of protecting our nation’s wild lands for future generations.”

Blumenauer, Loeb sack Introduce Bill to Bring Stability, Certainty to Clean Energy Industry—SEEC Members Rep. **Earl Blumenauer** (OR) and Rep. **Dave Loebsack** (IA) [introduced](#) H.R. 5559, the Bridge to a Clean Energy Future Act of 2014. The bill would extend critical incentives to provide market certainty and to strengthen investment in clean energy.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **22 Million:** Number of people displaced by natural disasters in 2013, more than the number of people displaced by war.
- ◆ **\$62.5 Billion:** Amount that wildfire fighting may cost the Federal government by 2050.
- ◆ **\$2 million:** Amount spent by Department of the Interior in response to information requests by Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee.
- ◆ **Tripled:** Amount of growth experienced solar industry in the in past three years.
- ◆ **50 Years:** Time that has passed since the enactment of the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

David E. Price @RepDavidEPrice: Pleased to celebrate 50 years of the [#Wilderness](#) Act and [#LWCF](#). You can read my statement here: <http://1.usa.gov/1qLretS> [#Wilderness50](#)

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

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