



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2014

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **White House Introduces Climate Data Website**—President Obama wants Americans to see how climate change will remake their own backyards — and to make it as easy as opening a web-based app.
- **Panel's Warning on Climate Risk: Worst Is Yet to Come**—Climate change is already having sweeping effects on every continent and throughout the world's oceans, scientists reported on Monday, and they warned that the problem was likely to grow substantially worse unless greenhouse emissions are brought under control.
- **EPA Moves to Better Protect Streams and Wetlands**—The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated rules that will determine what bodies of water are protected by the Clean Water Act.
- **W.H. Methane Strategy Next Step in Climate Plan**—The White House has unveiled the latest step in President Barack Obama's climate strategy: a plan for reducing emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas produced by everything from natural gas development to dairy farming.
- **Congress Designates First New Wilderness Area in 5 Years**—The House approved protections for 32,500 acres of Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The measure had passed in the Senate last June, which means it will now go to President Barack Obama to be signed into law.
- **BP Makes First Bids on Gulf Drilling Rights since Post-spill Suspension**—BP is bidding on new drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico for the first time in nearly two years, after a government contract suspension forced the oil giant to sit out on three government auctions of the territory.

SEEC ENDORSED LEGISLATION

Vice-Chair **Doris Matsui**: H.R. 400: *Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act*

Bill Summary: Would create an export assistance fund to help small- and medium-sized clean energy technology companies better access markets abroad.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Top Obama Advisers Brief SEEC on Emissions Agenda—President Obama's top climate advisers, John Podesta and Dan Utech, [met with SEEC](#) to discuss his carbon emissions agenda.

SEEC Asks: GOP, What is Your Plan for Climate Change?—House Republicans passed the Polluter Protection Act, yet another measure to protect polluters by barring EPA from reducing carbon pollution from power plants. SEEC [responded](#): "Democrats have proposed pragmatic solutions to combat climate change ... Sadly, each time Republicans respond by saying no. When will they provide a solution?" Member Rep. **Julia Brownley** (CA) offered the [motion to recommit](#) the bill.

Republican Overreach Threatens America's Waterways and Outdoors—House Republicans passed H.R. 3189, the so-called Water Rights Protection Act. This partisan grab jeopardizes recreation and restoration of our federal lands and waterways. SEEC Members [led the charge](#) to shield community treasures from the bill's overreach, offering amendments to protect waterways, parks, and forests in their districts.

House Dems Add to Keystone Pressure—"The math doesn't add up. In order to meet our commitment to fight climate change, we need to keep at least 80 percent of carbon reserves below ground," [said](#) the letter spearheaded by SEEC Vice-Chair **Rush Holt** (NJ), Member **Mike Quigley** (IL), and Member **Raúl Grijalva** (AZ).

Cost-Saving Real Estate Energy Efficiency Solutions Power through the House—Introduced by SEEC Member Rep. **Peter Welch** (VT) and Rep. David McKinley (WV) the Tenant Star program designed to accelerate energy efficiency in leased commercial spaces, which could cut utility bills for landlords and tenants by an estimated \$2 billion dollars by 2030.

Obama Creates New National Monument—The newly-designated Point Arena-Stornetta has long been considered for special protection. In July, the House unanimously approved SEEC Member Rep. **Jared Huffman's** (CA) [proposal](#) to add the area to the California Coastal National Monument, but subsequently the bill was left to languish in the Senate.

Lawmakers Urge Renewal of Wind Energy Tax Credits—SEEC Member **Dave Loebsack** (IA) [led](#) a bipartisan group of 118 House members to call for the reinstatement of the production tax credit (PTC) and the investment tax credit (ITC).

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **25**: Number of years since the Exxon Valdez oil tanker struck Bligh Reef, spilling 10.8 million gallons of crude oil into Alaskan waters.
- ◆ **\$45 Billion**: Amount of insurance losses due to weather-related disasters in 2013.
- ◆ **7 Million**: Number of people who died prematurely from exposure to air pollution in 2012, accounting for 1 in 8 deaths worldwide.
- ◆ **80,000**: Number of clean energy jobs created in 2013.
- ◆ **11.5 Million**: Number of homes that wind energy can power, based on production in the top ten wind producing states.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

Rep. **Susan Davis** @RepSusanDavis: Good Day Sunshine! CA leads the nation in solar-generated energy. Now we're breaking our own records! #climate @SEEC <http://reut.rs/OffJcJ>

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