

Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup
July 20 – July 24

Update on Senate Climate Legislation:

This week, the Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW Committee) continued its series of hearings in advance of considering cap and trade legislation.

On July 21, Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the Economy held a hearing on the state and local perspectives on clean energy jobs, climate-related policies and economic growth. Four governors—Governor Bill Ritter (D-CO), Governor Jon Corzine (D-NJ), Governor Christine Gregoire (D-WA), and Governor John Hoeven (R-ND) —were among those testifying at the hearing.

The witnesses all acknowledged the serious economic and environmental challenges governors currently facing governors across the country and pointed to their states' efforts to address these challenges. Governor Ritter spoke of the opportunities in Colorado's "New Energy Economy", cited companies that are making investments in alternative and renewable energy resources like wind and solar, and noted the efforts made by state's P-20 Education Coordinating Council and Jobs Cabinet in preparing workers for the high-skilled jobs in the new energy economy. Governor Corzine spoke of his state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) as part of a larger, coordinated effort to reduce emissions and pointed to state programs like the Solar Renewable Certificate and the Green Jobs Partnership Training Program as examples of how New Jersey is transitioning to a new energy economy. Governor Gregoire pointed to the fact that Washington has recently become the fifth largest producer of wind power in the country, spoke of the value of the community college system in training workers for the new energy economy, and encouraged Congress to support apprenticeships as a model for green job training.

These three governors expressed their qualified support for climate change legislation that would enable their states to thrive in a new energy economy. Governor Hoeven also spoke of current efforts in his state to develop clean coal technology and advance new and cleaner methods of oil recovery and production. He opposed, however, any legislation resembling the Waxman-Markey bill passed by the House in June, calling it "not the right kind of policy" and stating that mandatory caps on emissions would penalize North Dakotan energy and utility companies that have already begun to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through their own initiative.

In addition to the Environment and Public Works Committee hearing this week, the following related hearings were held:

- Foreign Relations: On July 21, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing on Climate Change and Global Security. The hearing focused on the challenges, opportunities, and diplomatic issues associated with climate change. In general, witnesses stressed the need for the nation to adopt pass climate change legislation that includes national security measures. Former Senator John Warner (R-VA) described the

Committee's role as the axle in forming policies, commitments, and targets with foreign nations. He also warned that if the American public fails to see international cooperation and the citizens of other nations bearing significant clean energy costs, public opinion will reject the legislation. Retired Navy Vice Admiral Lee Gunn highlighted the potential military and human costs of inaction, claiming that climate change will result in a competition for resources and water that will lead to vast migration both across and within America's borders. Armed conflicts abroad will lead to more failed states, and the American military will likely become entangled in various interventions and humanitarian efforts. Although both Democrats and Republicans on the Committee recognized the gravity of this issue, many Republicans including Ranking Member Richard Lugar (R-IN) cautioned that moving too fast legislatively could come at the expense of more pressing matters.

- Agriculture: On July 22, the Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on the role of agriculture and forestry in global warming legislation. Witnesses included the President of the National Farmers Union Roger Johnson, a family tree farmer, Administrator of the EPA Lisa Jackson, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Dr. John Holdren the Director of the White House Office of Science & Technology. Testimony focused on the role that offsets would play in supplementing farmers and foresters income, and in the possible displacement of agriculture acres with offset projects. The Farm Bureau estimates a \$5 billion drop in agricultural income as a result of Waxman-Markey if the bill is implemented concerned Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). Other Senators were concerned with the potential displacement of agricultural acres, a prediction that Secretary Vilsack disputed by arguing that offset projects would probably be confined to more marginal lands not currently used in agricultural production.

Next week, the Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a hearing focusing on the national security implications of addressing climate change. The Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation will also hold a hearing next week to examine on solutions that local communities can develop to address climate change. EPW Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is expected to introduce cap and trade legislation in early September and move to markup in her committee shortly thereafter.

House Committee on Science and Technology

- On July 21, the House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment passed both the Wind Energy Research and Development Act (HR 3165) and the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009 (HR 3246) out of committee. These bills are intended to increase funding in both wind energy technology and alternative fuel vehicles. HR 3165 would increase funding to the wind energy research programs in the Department of Energy by \$200 million. HR 3165 would authorize \$550 million for 2010 to the Department of Energy's advanced vehicle research and increase that amount by \$10 million each year until 2014. It is expected that both bills will be taken up by the full committee as early as next week.

New Legislation

- The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R.3183) introduced July 13 by Rep. Ed Pastor (D-AZ). The bill would make appropriations for

energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Status: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 320 - 97 (Roll no. 592).

- (H.R.1622) introduced March 19 by Rep. John Sullivan (R-OK). The bill would provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles.

Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- (H.R.2729) introduced June 4 by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM). The bill would authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes.

Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- (H.R.3029) introduced June 24 by Rep. Paul D. Tonko (D-NY). The bill would establish a research, development, and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines used in combined cycle power generation systems.

Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .

- The Wind Energy Research and Development Act (H.R.3165) introduced July 9 by Rep. Paul D. Tonko (D-NY). The bill would provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes.

Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .

- (H.R.3246) introduced July 17 Rep. Gary C. Peters (D-MI). The bill would provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy.

Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.

- (S. 849) introduced April 22 by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE). The bill would require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on black carbon emissions.

Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 125.

- (S.1502) introduced July 22 by Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).. The bill would establish a program to be managed by the Department of Energy to ensure prompt and orderly compensation for potential damages relating to the storage of carbon dioxide in geological storage units.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- (H.R.391) introduced January 1 by Rep. marsha Blackburn (R-TN). The bill would amend the Clean Air Act to provide that greenhouse gases are not subject to the Act, and for other purposes.

Status: Motion to Discharge Committee filed by Mrs. Blackburn. Petition No: 111-5.

- (S.1393) introduced July 2 by Senator Carl Levin (D-MI). The bill would authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

Status: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.