

Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup
June 29 – July 3

Congress is on recess until Monday, July 6.

House Passes American Clean Energy and Security Act: On June 26, the House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act with a vote of 219-212. Eight Republicans voted with majority Democrats to pass the bill and 44 Democrats voted to against it. President Obama applauded the House for passing the bill. However, he expressed opposition to a provision in the bill that would largely require the President to implement tariffs on certain goods from certain countries that do not implement similar emissions reductions policies. The President could seek to waive the tariff, however Congress would need to pass a joint resolution allowing the President to do so. Attached is an analysis of the bill as passed by the House prepared by Congressional Quarterly.

Update on Senate Climate Legislation: With the House of Representatives having passed climate change legislation last week, attention now turns to the Senate. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced this week a deadline of September 18 for the six committees of jurisdiction to complete their own climate change markups. The Environment and Public Works Committee will take the lead on drafting the Senate bill and Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) intends to schedule an initial hearing for July 7 and proceed to complete a markup before the August recess. The other committees with jurisdiction over portions of a climate change bill are Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance and Foreign Relations. The prospects for passage of a climate change bill in the Senate are far from certain. Senator Boxer has been meeting regularly with a group of Democratic Senators for whom climate change legislation is a priority and this group hopes to gain the support of other moderate Democrats from states whose economies rely heavily on the energy production and manufacturing industries.

New Legislation

- (H.R.3083) introduced June 26 by Rep. John A. Boccieri (D-OH). The bill would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program for the award of grants to States to establish revolving loan funds for small and medium-sized manufacturers to improve energy efficiency and produce clean energy technology

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology.