

Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup
November 9—November 13

Update on Senate Climate Legislation:

This week, Senate Finance Committee Chairman and Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Member Max Baucus (D-MT) expressed his support for passing comprehensive climate change legislation and said that he expects the Finance Committee to mark up provisions under its jurisdiction before the end of the year. Baucus's support for the bill is critical, as he is viewed as an influential swing vote. Baucus was the only opposing vote for the bill when it was reported out of the EPW committee on November 5 (Republicans boycotted the markup, therefore only Democrats voted on the bill). He voted against the bill because he was unable to offer an amendment to ease the 2020 emissions reduction targets, due to rules preventing any amendments to the bill in committee without the presence of a quorum. Baucus held a Finance Committee hearing on November 10 focusing on the implications climate legislation could have on both job creation and job loss.

In regards to next steps for the climate legislation, the six Senate committee chairmen who have jurisdictions over portions of the bill—Baucus, EPW Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman and the bill's lead sponsor John Kerry (D-MA)—are slated to meet with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on November 16 to discuss the strategy for moving the bill.

New Legislation:

No related legislation was introduced this week.