U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Blog-Clips
Prepared by the Office of Public Affairs

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(BNA articles can be viewed online http://Intranet.epa.gov/desktop/news.htm

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PEOPLE ARE TALKING

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With the internet, blogs, Twitter, forums - people are talking about EPA 24/7
Here's a sampling of what was said on March 4, 2010:

NOTE: To read the entire blog entry, click on underlined URL. To learn more about the blogger, click on the name/link in first line. Notes and headings are from OPA.

Admin. Lisa Jackson Now on Twitter

Welcome to twitter EPA Admin @lisapjackson!
Posted by: HuffPostGreen 7:20 pm Full post:

Welcome to EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson who is on Twitter! Follow her @lisapjackson to hear what's happening at the EPA these days.
Posted by: ewgtoxics 7:17 pm Full post:
(Note: Env. Working Group)

Wow - more than 500 followers in one day! Any tips 4 us, besides running the EPA? RT @lisapjackson: Looking fwd to tweeting w/ you all.
Posted by: sciwriter 7:10 pm Full post:

EPA Administrator @lisapjackson, clean air & enviro uber-champion, is on Twitter.
Posted by: SecLocke 7:05 pm Full post:
(Note: Secretary of Commerce Dept.)

Welcoming EPA Administrator @lisapjackson to Twitter. Follow her! #ourdecade
Posted by: energyaction 6:17 pm Full post:
(Note: Energy Action is a coalition of 50 youth-led groups leading a generational charge to create a clean energy economy. 2800 followers)

GHG Regulation and Climate Change

Record Number of Shareholder Actions Target Climate Change
Posted by: NewsOnGreen 7:23 pm Full post: http://dlvr.it/5dF5

(Note: Investors filed 95 shareholder resolutions during the 2009 proxy season -- a 40 percent increase over 2008 -- seeking more info on how companies are measuring and managing their carbon footprints, preparing for risks, and moving to take advantage of potential opportunities.

Investors increasingly concerned about climate change.
Posted by: wecanlead 7:20 pm Full post: http://bit.ly/deoUf9

$7 per Gallon Gas If Democrat Climate Change Goals Are Enacted
Posted by: americanblogstr 7:14 pm Full post: http://bit.ly/aaQpUf

EPA to Phase in CO2 emissions permits/BACT for mid-sized sources: The ..
Posted by: qreviews4u 7:00 pm Full post: **http://bit.ly/cb6DyQ**

Rockefeller seeks to keep EPA from doing it's job
Posted by: greenforyou 6:17 pm Full post: http://bit.ly/cb6DyQ

WSJ: Lawmakers Offer Bills to Suspend EPA Rules: By Siobhan Hughes - Democratic coal-state lawmakers introduce...
Posted by: GreenResponse 4:17 pm Full post: http://bit.ly/bHd5eC
(Note: Coal-state lawmakers introduced legislation Thursday to suspend for two years EPA rules aimed at limiting greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants, factories and oil refineries)

ROUND-UP OF MAJOR BLOGS

AIR

Murkowski throws support behind Rockefeller plan to block EPA (*The Hill*)

By Ben Geman - 03/04/10 11:12 AM ET environ

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on Thursday threw her support behind Sen. Jay Rockefeller's (D-W.Va.) bill to block EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from industrial facilities for two years – a plan that's less sweeping than a proposal Murkowski is pushing.

Rockefeller introduced his legislation today after confirming Tuesday that it was en route this week. It could present a tough political challenge to the White House if it picks up support from substantial numbers of Democrats from coal states and regions with heavy manufacturing bases, such as Ohio and Michigan.

Murkowski – who has 40 cosponsors for her competing plan – supports Rockefeller's bill but said she's keeping her own plan at the ready if it doesn't advance.

"Senator Rockefeller's legislation is further evidence of the growing, bipartisan, and bicameral resistance to EPA's back-door climate regulations. Given the overwhelming opposition to these actions, I'm hopeful that this bill will draw additional support and advance quickly," Murkowski said in a prepared statement.

"If that does not occur, the disapproval resolution is guaranteed consideration in the Senate. It's imperative that senators have an opportunity to vote on whether or not they support EPA's costly, unilateral and unprecedented attempt to impose these command-and-control regulations," she added.

Murkowski had been seeking support for her "resolution of disapproval" that would overturn EPA's finding that greenhouse gases threaten humans. The finding is the legal underpinning for EPA climate change rules.

The White House has been emphasizing that her plan would harm automakers by torpedoing pending EPA rules that create a national emissions standard for automobiles. Automakers would prefer a single national standard to a patchwork of state rules.

Rockefeller, a strong ally of coal producers, called his plan an "important action to safeguard jobs, the coal industry, and the entire economy as we move toward clean coal technology." He said it would provide Congress the time needed to complete work on climate legislation.

"This legislation will issue a two year suspension on EPA regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary sources—giving Congress the time it needs to address an issue as complicated and expansive as our energy future. Congress, not the EPA, must be the ideal decision-maker on such a challenging issue," he said.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) and Reps. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) and Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.) are introducing a House version, according to Rockefeller's office.

Source:
http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/84965-murkowski-throws-support-behind-rockefeller-plan-to-block-epa

Senator Rockefeller Pushes For Moratorium On EPA Authority (*Huffington Post*)

Posted: 03- 4-10 12:07 PM
By Juliet Eilperin
Sen. John D. Rockefeller (D-WVa.) will introduce legislation Thursday to impose a two-year moratorium on the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants and other stationary emitters, a move that could undermine the Obama administration's plan to pursue a cap on carbon emissions in the face of congressional opposition.

Rockefeller's bill, one of several recent congressional efforts to curb the EPA's authority to address climate change under the Clean Air Act, highlights the resistance the administration will face if it attempts to limit carbon dioxide through regulation. Obama and his top deputies have repeatedly said they would prefer for Congress to set mandatory, nationwide limits on greenhouse gas emissions, but the EPA is moving ahead with plans to do so if legislation fails to pass this year.

"Today, we took important action to safeguard jobs, the coal industry, and the entire economy as we move toward clean coal technology," Rockefeller said. "This legislation will issue a two-year suspension on EPA regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary sources--giving Congress the time it needs to address an issue as complicated and expansive as our energy future. Congress, not the EPA, must be the ideal decision-maker on such a challenging issue."

Republicans, too, have repeatedly tried to rein in the EPA's climate authority--Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has introduced a resolution of disapproval that would overturn the agency's scientific finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare, and House Republicans introduced their own version of the resolution this week. But Rockefeller's effort is especially significant because it points to growing unease among Democrats over the prospect of the administration tackling climate change without explicit congressional approval.

Three Senate Democrats--Blanche Lincoln (Ark.), Mary Landrieu (La.) and Ben Nelson (Neb.)--are co-sponsoring Murkowksi's resolution. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson (D-Minn.) and Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) have introduced a similar measure, and House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WVa), along with Democratic Reps. Alan Mollohan (WVa) and Rick Boucher (D-Va.), will introduce a companion bill to Rockefeller's. In addition, Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) has introduced a measure that would strip the EPA of its authority to regulate pollution linked to global warming.

A 2007 Supreme Court ruling gave the EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, and by the end of this month the agency is slated to impose the first-ever greenhouse gas limits on emissions from cars and light-trucks. While that set of rules--the product of a deal between the auto industry, the federal government and more than a dozen states--is not controversial, EPA's plan to then target power plants and other industrial facilities has sparked serious opposition.

Environmentalists have opposed any attempts to undermine the EPA's Clean Air Act authority, seeing it as both a dangerous precedent and a serious blow to the administration's ability to cope with climate change if Congress fails to pass a bill. While the House passed climate legislation in June, the Senate is still divided on whether to adopt a bill setting limits on greenhouse gases.

Tim Wirth, president of the U.N. Foundation, said the House-passed bill already provided several concessions to the coal industry, and urged President Obama to stop Rockefeller's legislation.

"The president ought to veto it, period," Wirth said. "This is a huge affront to his authority, and it's exactly what the coal industry wants. The coal industry has everything it wants in legislation, and now it wants more."

Two weeks ago a group of coal-state Democrats--led by Rockefeller--wrote EPA administrator Lisa P. Jackson, asking her to outline her timeline for regulating greenhouse gas emitters under the Clean Air Act. Jackson replied that she would not target major emitters of carbon dioxide until 2011, and many smaller facilities would not face regulation until 2016.

But this move did not satisfy Rockefeller, who usually serves as one of the administration's close allies.

"This is a positive change and good progress, but I am concerned it may not be enough time," he said. "We must set this delay in stone and give Congress enough time to consider a comprehensive energy bill to develop the clean coal technologies we need. At a time when so many people are hurting, we need to put decisions about clean coal and our energy future into the hands of the people and their elected representatives, not a federal environmental agency."

By Juliet Eilperin

CLIMATE CHANGE

Utility group to Waxman: We don't doubt climate science (*The Hill*)

By Ben Geman - 03/04/10 10:36 AM ET

> An electric utility trade group told senior House Democrats Wednesday that it does not doubt global warming science, despite backing a Senate resolution to overturn EPA's finding that greenhouse gases threaten humans.
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> The American Public Power Association (APPA) has come under fire from Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) over its support for Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) proposal to overturn EPA's "endangerment finding."

But in a letter to the lawmakers, the group said it's backing the resolution because EPA's finding is the legal underpinning for planned rules to limit emissions from power plants and other sources.

APPA "does not dispute the science of climate change, which has shown that: 1) climatic changes are occuring; and 2) human actions are contributing to such changes," states a March 3 letter from the group to Waxman and Markey.

The group opposes EPA regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary sources under its current Clean Air Act powers, but believes Congress should enact "appropriate" climate legislation.

Murkowski said that's why she's pushing the measure too -- she fears the economic effects of planned emissions rules. Her resolution may come to the floor this month.

But Waxman, Markey and other opponents of Murkowski's plan are casting it as an attack on climate science rather than just a procedural maneuver to stymie regulations. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) has called Murkowski's plan "radical" and said that Congress should not be in the business of overturning health and scientific findings by federal agencies.