



FEDERAL LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP MEETING 9/29/21

Agenda

1. Administration activities
2. Legislation updates
3. Monthly call with EESG

Notes

1. Administration Activities

On 9/15, consultant Wood Mackenzie released a [study](#) concluding that the Biden administration faces a “struggle” to hit its targets of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the power sector by 2035 and economywide by 2050. The study concludes that electrification and energy efficiency are critical and “huge gains can be made from improving energy performance in buildings, industrial processes and cities.”

On 9/20, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) urged DOE and FERC to take additional measures to reduce climate- and cybersecurity-related risks to the electric power grid. In their [report](#), GAO called on DOE to craft a strategy for beefing up grid resilience to climate change and to do better at informing utilities about grid-resilience research and development at national laboratories.

On 9/23, EPA finalized a rule to cap and phase down by 85% over 15 years the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons as refrigerants and for other industrial purposes. Ironically, EPA’s rule carries out requirements in energy legislation enacted 12/27/20 as part of FY21 appropriations legislation approved by the previous administration.

DOE will have huge gaps in fulfilling the workload that is hitting them due to stepped up climate priorities, not to mention what’s anticipated from new bills.

2. Legislative Update

On 9/10, ASE sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leaders to support a National Climate Bank and urging clear language regarding annual investments in disadvantaged communities. The House Energy and Commerce Committee designated a separate funding stream specifically for the targeted communities, which in general meets the objectives and concerns raised in the letter.

On 9/14, the House Energy and Commerce Committee reported out legislation that would establish the Clean Electricity Performance Program to prod utilities to increase the amount of low- and zero-carbon generating resources in their portfolios. On a mostly party-line vote of 30-27, the committee advanced the energy title of its portion of a 10-year, \$3.5-trillion budget bill. Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) voted with committee Republicans to oppose the energy title. The

committee finished reporting out other titles of the bill Sept. 15. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), the committee chairman, called the bill “transformational.” The committee’s legislation would be part of a budget bill to flesh out a budget resolution to advance the Biden administration’s climate, health and education priorities. In the Senate, Democrats plan to advance the legislation under filibuster-exempt budget reconciliation rules.

On 9/15, the House Ways and Means Committee reported out its section of the 10-year, \$3.5-trillion budget bill, including a tax package extending credits for energy efficiency and renewables, and making storage, transmission and nuclear power eligible for credits. The committee sent the legislation to the House Budget Committee, which will assemble sections reported out by House committees into a legislative package.

On 9/23, ASE sent a letter to Senate leaders in support of the Main Street Efficiency Act to be included in the pending budget reconciliation vehicle, the Build Back Better Act. The letter was endorsed by 41 leading businesses and organizations. ASE encourages any of us to share this letter with our networks or to follow up with our respective Congressional delegations, particularly those Senators who will be key in getting the MSEA included in the bill, which is currently being pre-conferenced.



MSEA support letter

On 9/23, CEDMC members Lloyd Kass (Franklin Energy), Tanuj Deora/Dan Cross/Angela Amos (Uplight) and Ryan Wilson (Energy Solutions) along with Rick Counihan (AnnDyl) organized a call to discuss the Federal Reduction Tax Credit (RTC) concept as being potentially a part of the federal reconciliation package. A description of the RTC concept is below. A support letter (pasted below) is being organized and the Council will definitely sign on. [Link](#) to 9/16 OpEd about RTC from The Hill.



RTC Description



RTC letter of support to Sen. Ben

3. Monthly Call with EESG

On 9/20, Greg participated in a monthly call led by Jennifer Shaffer on behalf of EESG.

- Lots of discussion about the potential bucket of money coming to the states through the Climate Bank; it could be overwhelming.
- It might be worthwhile for the Council (through our lobbyists) reach out to CAEFTA to better understand how they might anticipate receipt of Climate Bank money.
 - o Nancy Barba Frontier has a contract with CAEFTA and would be happy to do introductions with ED or Mariam (program overseer)
- EESG organized the attached letter that was sent on 9/27 to Senate and House leadership urging for retaining EE/BE funding levels as Congress negotiates a deal among various parties on the Democratic side. The Council has signed onto this letter



EESG letter to leadership

- Excel sheet pasted below lays out all the details/pieces related to efficiency in the House bill that are contained in the reconciliation bill (note that this is an updated sheet to one that Don Gilligan shared earlier this month).



Federal Legislation
Summary Sheet

Next Meeting

Our next Federal call will be Wednesday October 13th at 8:15 Here are the coordinates:

[Zoom Link](#)

Call-in: +1 669 900 9128, Meeting ID: 977 7731 8912

Passcode: cedmc