



## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP MEETING 2/9/22**

### **Agenda**

1. Administration activities
2. Legislative updates
3. Other updates

### **Notes**

#### **1. Administration Activities**

On 2/4, President Biden extended tariffs on imported crystalline solar-photovoltaic products another four years. In a proclamation, Biden established a tariff-free quota of 5 GW for cells, an increase from the current level of 2.5 GW, and annual reductions in the tariff for cell imports outside the quota over the coming four years.

On 2/1, DOE proposed efficiency standards for dehumidifying direct-expansion dedicated outdoor air systems used to condition outdoor air brought into indoor spaces. DOE said it has “preliminarily determined” that it lacks evidence to propose standards tighter than specifications in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers’ Standard 90.1.

On 1/26, top executives from several companies urged passage of legislation to speed greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the transportation sector. The executives spoke at a White House “Build Back Better CEO Roundtable” attended by President Biden.

On 1/24, DOE requested information on whether pool-pump efficiency standards should be tightened. Standards for swimming pool pumps were last updated in 2017. Among the issues on which DOE is seeking comment are pump energy-use patterns; installation and maintenance costs; equipment lifetimes; and potential impacts of tighter standards on small manufacturers, as well as whether estimated maximum efficiency levels for pumps are technologically feasible. Comments are due 2/23.

On 1/12, DOE rescinded Trump-era rules that set separate product classes for short cycle dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers. DOE said the 2020 rules fell short of following Energy Policy and Conservation Act requirements, including “analyzing whether the amended standards are designed to achieve the maximum improvement in energy efficiency that is technologically feasible and economically justified.” Rescinding the rules was supported by the California Energy Commission and California’s three large investor-owned utilities, along with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and environmental organizations. Fourteen states sued in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit to block the rules.

AEE webinar held on 2/8 offered a couple of links to information on funding opportunities resulting from federal stimulus efforts (thanks to Liz Weiner for forwarding):

[www.energy.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law](http://www.energy.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law)

[www.whitehouse.gov/build](http://www.whitehouse.gov/build)

## 2. Legislative Update

There isn't a whole lot to report on BBB; any discussions on a pathway forward are being held behind closed doors.

Congressman Peter Welch (D-Vt.), leading sponsor of [the Main Street Efficiency Act \(MSEA\) \(H.R. 4903\)](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives, will be presenting MSEA to the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), for endorsement by the prestigious group. A copy of the draft support letter can be found [here](#). The Council expects to sign onto this letter. We encourage members to consider signing on as well. If interested, please contact Jason Roett at ASE [jroett@ase.org](mailto:jroett@ase.org).

There is an effort to break off components of BBB which would receive support from Sen. Manchin, including climate change components (carbon capture and technologies).

Another legislative issue is the annual budgets for departments. There doesn't seem to be much hope to pass budgets for FY23 through the CR process (due 2/18). There is a worry that there might be a scaling back of regular appropriations due to this lag, which could have implications for IJJA and ARPA appropriations for unspent money.

## 3. Other updates

Greg reported that we continue to coordinate with other EE trade associations from around the country to push our specific agenda. Our meeting from Monday 2/7 was focused on Greg updating the group on the discussions and commitments we've received thus far, including E4theFuture's willingness to fund no more than \$20K of this effort. Then various folks offered their vision of what a joint effort should look like.

- Bottom line is that folks don't think an extensive study is needed and would rather have our efforts focused on a call to action which might then be a rally cry from the EE provider industry for federal legislation.

Greg and Steve have a follow-up call with Ellen Zuckerman on 2/10 to explore possibilities of collaborating on this effort more extensively with CERES, who have an ongoing effort aimed at doing much the same.

## Next Meeting

Our next Federal MWG meeting will be on Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:15 am. Call-in coordinates are below.

[Zoom link](#)

Call-in: +13126266799,,83592457581#

Passcode: cedmc2022