FEDERAL LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
3/9/22

Agenda

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

Notes

1. Administration Activities

On February 18, the White House Council on Environmental Quality released a beta version of a climate and economic justice screening tool to help federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities. The Biden administration has adopted a policy to steer 40 percent of federal spending on climate, clean energy and energy efficiency, and five other areas to those communities.

Biden's 3/1 SOTU address to Congress urged Congress to pass energy and climate components of the stalled Build Back Better legislation.

Environmental activist Bill McKibben outlines in a Feb 27th article the *Heat Pumps for Peace* concept as a way to wean Europe off Russian gas. This concept seems to be gaining some traction within the Biden Administration and could possibly be pushed through the Defense Production Act given the urgency brought about by the war in Ukraine.

2. Legislative Update

Main Street Efficiency Act (part of BBB): ASE sent along this **media tool kit** to help businesses and organizations share their support for the **Main Street Efficiency Act**. Please pass these materials along to your communications teams to help spread the word!

- Here is a copy of a support letter led by ASE (CEDMC signed on along with several other members) and sent to members of both chambers on 3/2/22.

3. Other updates

EESG monthly meeting on 2/14 (summary below):

- IIJA and DOE Reorganization, including a new OrgChart.
- NASEO meetings in DC; big news was about the DOE reorganization.

- There were a lot of DOE folks talking about their actions that will happen regarding IIJA activities but very little insight.
- The administration recently put out a new IIJA Guidebook (version here condensed for just the programs the EESG has been focused on).
- Kathleen Hogan is acting undersecretary for the office of infrastructure (until they get somebody into a confirmed seat).
- Big emphasis for DOE is now on decarbonization.
- DOE oversees 62 new programs; 12 existing programs; $60B of funding.
- They have approval to hire 5-year term employees which is believed to speed up the hiring process.
- EESG put together an EE principles document for each piece of BBB legislation.
- Congressional update
    - Appropriations (there will be a budget for 2022 coming soon)
    - The budget framework will result in some budget cuts due to higher defense spending
    - Most members on the Hill are not gathering information on EE-related programs for appropriations
- BBB: No updates from EESG. Even so, it is good for all of us to keep pushing the drumbeat (especially the tax incentives since they seem to have the most traction but should be the full climate package currently at $150B).
- EESG has been doing some Education meetings with freshman members (including with Republicans) to stress the importance of EE from a business perspective, especially for upcoming appropriations.

Greg and Steve met with Ellen Zuckerman on 2/10 to explore possibilities of collaborating on a broader campaign of EE advocacy at the federal level. CERES already has an ongoing effort aimed at doing much the same.

On 3/7, we convened our monthly EE trade association group. We have revised our proposal to conduct an EE industry association advocacy action plan. This concept now has the full support of CEDMC and 7 other organizations from around the country.

- We will be sending the proposal to Steve Cowell for consideration of funding.

Upcoming CleanTech Party Webinars:

- **March 10 2-3pm: California's New Congressional Maps**
    - Registration; for more information, reach out to shanil@envirovoters.org
- **March 24 2-3pm: California's New State Legislature Maps**
    - Registration; for more information, reach out to shanil@envirovoters.org

Next Meeting

Our next Federal MWG meeting will be on Wednesday April 6th at 8:15 am. Call-in coordinates are below.

Zoom link
Call-in: +13126266799,,83592457581#
Passcode: cedmc2022