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The US Senate's Very Own Climate Week

by Brian Merchant, Brooklyn, New York on 10.26.09
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Buzz up!



Photo via TMC Net

This week will be a busy one for climate action in the Senate--there's going to be a full week of hearings in the Environment and Public Works Committee, with the likes of Energy Secretary Stephen Chu and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson weighing in on the importance of passing climate legislation. There's also some new funding for clean energy funding, a great op-ed from a senator, and more. Hearings, speeches, articles, calls for action--it's like the US Senate is having its very own climate week.

The first hearing is tomorrow at 9:30, and you can follow along online at the Environment and Public Works website. It will feature just about every luminary in an environment-related cabinet post at the Obama administration, and could very well set the tone for the week's proceedings. Also speaking is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff, who Joe Romm describes as "the best Obama appointment you never heard of, who said in April of new nuclear and coal plants: "We may not need any, ever." I'll repost the full witness list for Wednesday and Thursday at the end.

The Department of Energy also began the week by handing out \$151 million in early stage clean tech grants for projects like biofuel research.

And Senator Barbara Boxer (co-author of the Senate's climate bill) wrote a must-read op-ed in the Huffington Post that astutely outlines the necessity of passing climate legislation and debunks the misconceptions many have about it. She writes:

We are at a crossroads. We can choose a future in which we face the ravages -- and the costs -- of unchecked global warming, while other nations gain the jobs and the economic benefits of investing in clean energy technologies. Or we can act now to transform our economy, create millions of new American jobs, and lead the world in developing and exporting in clean energy technologies while protecting our children from dangerous pollution.

[Read the entire piece at the Huffington Post.](#)

[More on the Senate Climate Bill](#)

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[Senate Climate Bill Gets Bipartisan Support](#)

[Browner: Climate Bill Before Copenhagen? Probably Not.](#)

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