



**ERG
Partners**

Commitment. Action. Success.
Investing in Your Company's Future.

Call Us: 717-233-8606

[Website](#) [About Us](#) [Services](#) [Clients](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)

January 15, 2015

Funding

2015 REAP GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service has published a notice in the Federal Register announcing it is accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program.

A [final rule for REAP](#) was published in late 2014.

REAP, which was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption. The program offers two types of funding assistance. The first category provides grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems energy efficiency improvements. Eligible renewable energy systems include renewable biomass, anaerobic digesters, wind, solar, small hydro-electric, ocean, geothermal, or hydrogen

Change is Gonna Come...

Harrisburg is primed for the Inauguration of Pennsylvania's 47th Governor, Tom Wolf, the start of the real 2015 legislative session and the beginning of the Wolf Administration. Inaugural activities will take front and center stage next Tuesday, January 20, starting with the swearing in of Lt. Governor Mike Stack in the Senate chamber at 10 a.m., and then proceeding with Governor Wolf's inaugural ceremony. The Governor and his wife will greet the public at the Governor's residence from 3-4:30, and then Tuesday evening, the festivities come to a conclusion with a "Let's Get Started" Inaugural Celebration at the Hershey Lodge. Tickets are available on line [here](#).

After Tuesday, the new Governor will be looking to fulfill his agenda and state government will be seeking solutions to the state's estimated \$1.85 billion deficit.

Wolf Transition

The Wolf team has announced his picks for his top staff in the Office of the Governor, and most of the cabinet. Almost immediately after the election, Wolf named Katie McGinty to be his Chief of Staff. Since then, he has named John Hanger, former DEP Secretary as his Secretary of Policy and Planning; Mary Isenhower, former Executive Director of the State Democratic Party and a senior campaign strategist as Secretary of Legislative Affairs; Obra S. Kernodle Jr. as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Public Liaison; Denise Smyler, a Philadelphia attorney as General Counsel; Randy Albright, who has been Executive

derived from these renewable resources. The second type of funding assistance provides grants to entities that will assist agricultural producers and small rural businesses by conducting energy audits and providing information on renewable energy development assistance. Those eligible for grants under the second category include government entities, institutions of higher education, public power entities or councils.

Grant applications, guaranteed loan-only applications, and combined grant and guaranteed loan applications for financial assistance may be submitted at any time on an ongoing basis. For renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications, there will be two application deadlines to facilitate the use of fiscal year 2014 and 2015 grant funds, including deadlines set for April 30 and June 30. Applications for guaranteed loans will be reviewed and processed when received with monthly competitions on the first business day of each month for those applications ready to be funded. The first monthly competition, however, will not take place until eight guaranteed loan only applications are received and ready to be competed. Applications for energy audits and renewable energy assistance grants are due Feb. 15.

A full copy of the notice of solicitation, which includes application instructions, is

Director of the Democratic Senate Appropriations Committee was tapped as Secretary of the Budget; and yesterday, he named Sharon Minnich, who served as Deputy Secretary of the Budget and General Services in the Rendell Administration as Secretary of Administration.

Among the notable cabinet secretaries named are Russell Redding as Secretary of Agriculture, John Quigley as Secretary of Environmental Protection and Cindy Adams Dunn as Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources. Dennis Davin was named as Secretary of Community and Economic Development, and Linda Richards was named Wednesday as Secretary of Transportation. Current Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch will become a special assistant to the Governor to help oversee implementation of Act 89's infrastructure spending plans. Most of the Governor's nominees are subject to confirmation by the State Senate.

Biographies of the full slate of cabinet appointees are available online [here](#).

General Assembly

Senator Joe Scarnati was re-elected President Pro Tempore in the Senate, and Rep. Mike Turzai was elected Speaker of the House on January 6. Since that day, the House and Senate caucuses have announced their leadership and Committee chairs for the 2015-2016 session, and a list of those chairs is available online [here](#).

Speaker Turzai said this week that he sees meeting the budget shortfall as reasonable, noting revenues are coming in above predictions, sales of the liquor system could generate \$1 billion up front, and serious pension reform would also help meet that continuing issue along with reductions in spending in non-mandated programs. Turzai said he expected the House to again pass legislation to sell off the state liquor wholesale and retail operations, noting he thought the vote would be bipartisan and have at least 120 members in support.

Of other note in the House of Representatives, the Transportation Committee has two new chairs in Majority Chair John Taylor (R, Philadelphia) and Democratic Chair Bill Keller (D, Philadelphia.)

Environmental Resources and Energy

Rep. John Maher (R, Allegheny) has become the new chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Rep. Greg Vitali of Delaware County remains the Democratic chair of that committee.

available on the Federal Register [website](#). More information is available by calling 717-272-3908, ext. 6

**PENNSYLVANIA
ALTERNATIVE FUELS
INCENTIVE GRANT
PROGRAM;
AVAILABILITY OF
REBATES**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces the continued availability of grants to Commonwealth residents under Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program.

An alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) must be a new vehicle with an odometer reading of less than 500 miles at the time of purchase to be eligible for a rebate.

- \$2,000 rebate for a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) (battery system capacity equal/greater than 10 kWh) and battery electric vehicle (EV) (battery system capacity equal/greater than 10 kWh) (the first 500 qualified applicants only**).
- \$1000 rebate for a PHEV or EV (battery system capacity less than 10 kWh).
- \$1000 rebate for a compressed natural gas fueled vehicle (CNG).
- \$1,000 rebate for a propane fueled

Sen. Gene Yaw (R, Lycoming) was reappointed as Chairman of the PA Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Sen. John Yudichak (D, Luzerne) returns as Democratic chair.

Yaw said "The committee will continue working to address legislation, policies and issues dealing with Pennsylvania's natural resources, including regulations, conservation, strategic reserves and standards; public lands and their renewable resources; surface mining, coal, oil, and gas, and mineral leasing; air and water resources."

During the 2013-14 legislative session, the Senate committee examined several important issues including: the questionable deduction of natural gas royalty payments by specific gas companies, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed clean energy policy, and flood mitigation and storm water management, to name a few. The committee also reported out 30 pieces of legislation, 13 of which were signed by Governor Tom Corbett.

Yaw said the Committee will again pursue legislative measures to expand natural gas service for un-served and under-served areas of Pennsylvania, in addition to other important initiatives.

Vitali said he plans to introduce five bills to help protect the environment. The bills would:

- Require electric distribution companies, such as PECO and PPL, to buy more of their power from wind, solar and other clean energy sources.
- Require rents and royalties from oil and gas leases on commonwealth-owned land to be used exclusively for conservation, recreation, dams or flood control projects.
- Provide \$25 million per year to the now-defunct PA Sunshine Solar Program. The solar program has provided rebates to homeowners and small businesses that install solar systems.
- Impose a moratorium on additional leasing of state lands for natural gas drilling, exploration or production.
- Encourage electric and natural gas distribution utilities to implement energy efficiency and conservation plans.

Special Election in 170th set for March 24

Speaker Turzai ordered a special election be held to fill the vacant seat in the 170th Legislative District in

- vehicle (LPG).
- \$1,000 rebate for a hydrogen and/or fuel cell vehicle (FC).
- \$500 rebate for an electric motorcycle/scooter (EMC).

Consumers may submit applications for up to 6 months after the date of purchase. Rebates of \$2,000 will be offered for PHEVs and EVs (battery system capacity equal/greater than 10 kWh) until the 500 rebate mark is reached or until June 30, 2015, whichever occurs first, rebate amounts offered will be reassessed and likely reduced if funds remain. As of Jan. 5, 2015, 122 rebates remain at \$2,000.

For assistance with the AFV Rebate Program call Toll Free: 866-294-3854, or click on the link below to download the instruction manual (program guidance document) and to download and print the rebate form in PDF format. [Alternative Fuel Vehicle \(AFV\) Rebate Form and Guidance](#)

Events

[Pennsylvania Farm Show](#)

Jan 10-17, Harrisburg, Pa

[CP AEE Tour of Four Seasons Produce](#)

January 14, 11am-1pm, Ephrata, Pa
Randy Groff of Four-Seasons will provide a talk on deep energy

Philadelphia on Tuesday, March 24.

Turzai filed the writ of election, the formal document setting the date of a special election, with the Department of State. A copy of the writ is also being filed with the board of elections in Philadelphia.

The vacancy was created by the Jan. 2 retirement of Rep. Brendan Boyle prior to his being sworn in as a member of Congress representing the 13th Pennsylvania Congressional District.

Candidates for the office will be selected by a process designated by their respective political parties, and the winner of the special election will take office after the results are certified. Republicans have already selected **Martina White**, a 26 year-old financial advisor.

New Chief Justice Takes Gavel - Court Vacancies in 2015

A new chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was sworn in earlier this month as well. Chief Justice Thomas Saylor had a crowd of about 200 supporters on hand for his swearing in ceremonies. Saylor, 68, of Dauphin County, is a 17-year veteran of the State Supreme Court. He was sworn in by his predecessor, Ronald Castille, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 last year. Saylor will lead a seven-seat court that has been temporarily reduced to five members by Castille's retirement and the October resignation of former Justice Seamus McCaffery. Justice Correale Stevens was named to fill the seat vacated created by the 2013 felony conviction of former Justice Joan Orié Melvin, and that seat is also on the ballot this fall.

The three high court seats, the largest number ever at stake in one election in the state, will be on the primary and general election ballots. At least 16 candidates have announced their intentions to run for the open Supreme Court seats. The four justices who are not up for election are evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, which means the fall election will break that tie.

CFA Funding Certified

Charles Zogby, Secretary of the Budget, certified that sufficient surplus revenue will exist in the General Fund for Commonwealth Fiscal Years 2015- 2016 and 2016-2017 to pay any liabilities which will be incurred by the Commonwealth during those Fiscal Years if the Commonwealth Financing Authority incurs an additional \$250,000,000 of indebtedness; and, that the aggregate

retrofits - the genesis and journey of Four-Seasons. A facility tour and light lunch will be provided.

[Ben Franklin Technology Partners Sponsoring an Introduction to Equity Financing](#)

January 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with networking reception to follow, University Park, Pa.

News Clips

[Expect Nonstop Energy Drama in 2015](#)

[Renewables Face New State Leaders](#)

[Opinion - Six Trends for 2015](#)

[Pipelines and Eminent Domain](#)

[Lancaster Residents Protest Pipeline Work](#)

[Newly Formed Pittsburgh Company to Explore Appalachian Basin](#)

[API Includes Renewables in its Annual Report](#)

[Survey: Most Americans would choose renewables](#)

[Renewable Energy Jobs Fact Sheet Released](#)

[Join My Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

amount of liabilities which will be incurred by the Commonwealth for its Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 as a result of the activities of the Commonwealth Financing Authority are \$92,000,000 and \$92,000,000.

Governor Corbett Awards 18 Grants for Natural Gas Vehicle Conversion

HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Corbett today awarded \$7.3 million in Act 13 funding to 18 companies, organizations and partnerships making the switch to natural gas for their heavy-duty fleet vehicles.

"Act 13 not only strengthened oversight of the drilling industry, it allows us to continue growing jobs while cleaning the air at the same time," Corbett said. "Natural gas, particularly from the shale formations here in Pennsylvania, is an abundant, affordable, domestic fuel that is putting this country on a path to energy independence."

Act 13 of 2012 was the single largest step in modernizing the state's Oil and Gas Law in nearly three decades. It increased protections for private water supplies, empowered the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue larger fines and included one of the most progressive hydraulic fracturing fluid disclosure laws in the nation.

The Act also authorized DEP to develop and implement the Natural Gas Energy Development program, funded by impact fees paid by natural gas operators. The program distributed up to \$20 million in grants over three years, to help pay for the incremental purchase and conversion costs of heavy-duty natural gas fleet vehicles.

For this third round of the program, DEP received applications from 37 applicants requesting more than \$10 million in grants. The first two rounds awarded a total \$14.4 million to 43 companies and organizations making the switch to natural gas.

Eligible vehicles for all three rounds of the Natural Gas Energy Development program included those fueled with compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) or bi-fuel vehicles weighing 14,000 pounds or more.

Grant requests could not exceed 50 percent of the incremental purchase or retrofit cost per vehicle or a maximum total of \$25,000 per vehicle.

To learn more about Act 13 grant programs, visit

Stay Connected



www.dep.state.pa.us and click on the "Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program" button on the homepage.

FERC Schedules PennEast Pipeline Hearings

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has scheduled five public hearings on the PennEast Pipeline as it prepares to draft a statement on the potential environmental impacts of the project.

The hearings are part of what FERC calls the "scoping process" and will give members of the public a forum to tell regulators what should be evaluated as part of the environmental impact statement.

Each "scoping meeting" will begin at 6 p.m. Here's the schedule:

- January 27 - *The College of New Jersey* 2000 Pennington Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628
- January 28 - *Bucks County Community College* 275 Swamp Rd. Newtown, PA 18940
- February 10 - *Northampton Community College* 3835 Green Pond Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18020
- February 11 - *Penn's Peak* 325 Maury Rd. Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
- February 12 - *Best Western Hotel & Conference Center* 77 E Market St. Wilks-Barre, PA 18701

PennEast representatives will be available for one hour before the start of each meeting. [For more information, click here to read FERC's notice.](#)

The PennEast project involves constructing 108 miles of 36-inch diameter pipeline to transport about 1 billion cubic feet a day of Marcellus Shale natural gas. The line would start in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and end in Mercer County, New Jersey. Along the way, the pipeline will supply local distribution companies that deliver gas to homes and businesses in southeast Pennsylvania and South Jersey. It will also supply some power plants that have switched from coal to gas.

The project has met with resistance from landowners who are concerned about what the pipeline could mean for their property values and about the potential environmental impacts. The current route would cross under the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers and cut through preserved farmland and open space. Officials with several towns in both states have passed resolutions formally opposing the project.

PennEast spokeswoman Patricia Kornick said the company is working on an alternate route that would "maximize" co-location with existing utility lines based on feedback from landowners and local officials.

PennEast is participating in what is known as the FERC "pre-filing process," which allows the company to get early input from regulators and the public on its proposed route. PennEast expects to make a formal application to FERC by July.

Commonwealth Court Dismisses Lawsuit Over State Owned Lands and Lease Funds

Commonwealth Court last week dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation (PEDF) to declare natural gas extraction from State park and forest land unconstitutional. PEDF's suit also sought to block use of funds for non-conservation uses.

Pennsylvania has been leasing State lands for mineral extraction since the 1940's. Since 1955, rents and royalties obtained from the Commonwealth's leasing program were deposited into the Oil and Gas Lease Fund and used for conservation, recreation, dams and flood control. Since 2009, the Commonwealth's oil and gas lease program has generated over \$500 million in new revenue, where previously, the total was about \$2 million annually.

In its unanimous decision, the court rejected PEDF's constitutional arguments and denied all of its claims. The court summarily dismissed PEDF's claims relating to past and current leasing of State lands for gas extraction. It did not accept PEDF's interpretation of the state's Environmental Rights Amendment. Instead the Court said that rights and duties conferred by the Environmental Rights Amendment are balanced by other legitimate state interests. Without a clear constitutional limitation on the use of money from the state's oil and gas leasing program, the General Assembly is free to make funding decisions without judicial oversight.

PEDF has indicated its intention to appeal the Commonwealth Court's decision to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

DEP Finalizes Oil and Gas Spill Policy

Department of Environmental Protection finalized an investigation and response policy related to oil and gas spills in the January 3 PA Bulletin. The policy (DEP ID: 260-0500-001) establishes oversight rules for responses and remediation of spills and releases onto soils. The goals of the policy are to ensure consistent investigation and response, and coordination of response needs with remediation plans.

A copy of the policy is available at <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document->

REGIONAL NEWS

West Virginia to Reset Science Standards Over Climate Change Questions

West Virginia has withdrawn science education standards for the state's 2015-2016 school year because of pushbacks over changes that were made to question the causes of climate change.

The state Board of Education voted to withdraw previously approved standards and the standards now will be open to a 30-day public comment period. "I have great respect for the specialists in this state who study science and the pedagogy of science," said Gayle Manchin, president of the state BOE.

She said many science educators, scholars and other stakeholders-some of whom offered input on the original drafted standards-became concerned when board member Wade Linger's proposed revisions were made without consultation. Linger has questioned whether humans are the primary impact on greenhouse gases.

Manchin said resetting the adoption process-and returning the standards to their original drafted form-was necessary to afford scientists "the opportunity to go back to what they had developed, through peer review and through work with other leading scientists around the country."

Linger claimed the late alterations were about trying to "allow more than one point of view to be taught in the classroom."

In one example, the revised ninth-grade science requirement said students would "analyze geoscience data and the predictions made by computer climate models to assess their credibility for predicting future impacts on the Earth system."

The original standard had read: "analyze geoscience data and the results from global climate models to make an evidence-based forecast of the current rate of global or regional climate change."

Linger claimed his modification would allow more information on various theories "about why the warming is happening and to what extent it's happening and to whether it's happening steadily or in cycles." He voted against the withdrawal, as did board member Tom Campbell, who said the contention boiled down to 29 words out of more than 26,000.

Before the meeting, opposition to the changes came from multiple fronts. The BOE is scheduled to vote again on the science standards in March, which if approved, likely will be implemented for the 2016-2017 school year.

Michigan House passes MSW/pyrolysis bill

A bill passed by the Michigan House of Representatives in late 2014 aims to amend the state's Clean, Renewable, and Efficient Energy Act to allow fuel manufactured from certain waste sources to be defined as a renewable energy source and allow for the use of pyrolysis technologies in the generation of renewable energy. The Clean, Renewable, and Efficient Energy Act, signed into law in October 2008, established Michigan's renewable energy portfolio (RPS), which requires electric providers to achieve a retail supply portfolio that includes at least 10 percent renewable energy by 2015.

On Dec. 4, the Michigan House passed H.B. 5205 by a vote of 63-46. The bill removes some unnecessary burdens on the appropriate use of solid waste as a clean energy source. The summary also indicates the measure would allow fuel manufactured from municipal solid waste (MSW) and certain other waste sources to be considered a renewable energy source. The bill would also allow or the use of pyrolysis technologies in the generation of renewable energy and remove a prohibition on granting a renewable energy credit for energy generated from MSW incinerators by exceeding the incinerator's nameplate capacity.

The legislation also revises the term renewable energy to include both electricity and steam generated using a renewable energy system. A full copy of the legislation and summary can be downloaded from the Michigan Legislature [website](#).

Federal News

Methane Rules Proposed for New Wells

The Obama administration laid out a blueprint Wednesday for the first regulations to cut down on methane emissions from new natural gas wells, aiming to curb the discharge by roughly half.

(Portions from Politico) Relying on the Clean Air Act, the rules join a host of others that President Obama has ordered in an effort to slow global warming despite

opposition to new laws in Congress that has only hardened since the midterm elections.

The White House set a new target for the U.S. to cut methane emissions by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2025 compared to 2012 levels. To meet that goal, the EPA will issue a proposal affecting oil and gas production, while the Interior Department will update its standards for drilling to reduce leakage from wells on public lands.

The White House said it won't have specific estimates on the costs to industry, but Dan Utech, Obama's climate and energy advisor said, "There are significant, highly cost-effective opportunities for reducing methane emissions from this sector. We're confident we can do this in a cost-effective way."

Methane has grown as a concern for environmentalists amid the ongoing boom in drilling for oil and natural gas in the U.S. These rules will target new or modified natural gas wells, meaning thousands of existing wells won't have to comply. The Obama administration left open the possibility it could regulate methane from existing wells in the future and asked the energy industry to take voluntarily steps to curb emissions in the meantime.

The methane plans come at a particularly sensitive moment for Obama's environmental agenda. Republicans, incensed over the President's use of executive action to end run Congress on climate and other issues, have made rolling back those actions one of their first orders of business this year.

Obama's intention to eventually force industry to cut methane emissions has long been part of his broader strategy on climate change, and Wednesday's announcement may prove to be incremental.

Last year, the White House said the EPA would study how methane is released during drilling and determine whether it needed new regulations, so this announcement was not a surprise. But the key details - how the regulations will affect industry's bottom line and how deeply they'll reduce greenhouse gases - won't come until the government formally proposes the rule later this year.

Officials couldn't say how far the rules will go toward meeting Obama's goal to cut overall greenhouse gas emissions up to 28 percent by 2025, other than that the contribution would be "significant." But environmentalists argue that cutting methane is key to curbing climate change, and some scientists have said that without methane controls, the country's shift from

coal to natural gas will have less of an environmental benefit.

The oil and gas industry insisted such rules aren't necessary because methane emissions are already on the decline, and said gas producers are already working to reduce methane leakage. After all, methane is natural gas, so the less that leaks during production, the more of it that companies have left to sell.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) today issued the following statement in response to EPA's announced methane rules:

"Studies show that while our energy production has significantly increased, methane emissions have continued to decline. This is something that should be celebrated, not bound by new red tape. Our success has been - and should continue to be - rooted in new efficiencies created through technology and innovation, a commitment to continued safety enhancements, and greater permitting certainty. Our goal should be to modernize our energy infrastructure for the 21st century and continue to welcome successes in reducing emissions and delivering new sources of affordable energy to consumers who need it. These should be the priorities that we focus on, not creating new layers of bureaucracy that could smother such promising innovation."

In Pennsylvania, PennFuture said the rule "missed the mark by identifying only new sources and providing no clear pathway for existing sources of emissions." John Norbeck of PennFuture said, "The 10-year time frame is simply too long - Pennsylvanians cannot afford to wait a decade for better air for their kids. Who would wait a decade to plug a gas leak in their house?"

The group called on Gov.-elect Wolf to launch a rulemaking in his first 100 days to directly regulate methane in Pennsylvania.

House, Senate Move Keystone Pipeline Question - Amendments Allowed in Senate

The Senate's vote to start the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline bill has opened the legislative floodgates for the new GOP Congress, with members on both sides of the aisle set to unleash a host of politically sensitive energy amendments ranging from increasing crude oil exports to recognizing climate change.

The climate amendment, backed by Sen. Bernie Sanders

(I-Vt.), is designed to pin down senators' views about the connection between humans' greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, while Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is pushing the measure to end the four-decade-old ban on exporting U.S. oil, an effort that's opposed by a majority of voters.

The Senate vote of 63-32 to begin debate comes after the House passed its bill on Friday to approve the pipeline that would link Alberta's oil sands to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. The White House has threatened to veto the Keystone bill, which lacks the Democratic votes both in the House and the Senate necessary to override a presidential rejection. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R, Kentucky) has said he would allow an open amendment process for the bill, something that has been absent from Senate deliberations under the leadership of now Minority Leader Harry Reid (D, Nevada).

Sanders vowed to fight for floor time for his amendment. "Don't tell me I'm being deceived" on the chance to offer amendments, he quipped when asked about Kirk's assessment of his odds. Republicans, Sanders added, would "pay a price" for ducking a vote on his proposal. "We want to have folks on the record" about climate science, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) told reporters.

Cruz is not the only Republican weighing a White House run who has declared his support for unrestricted export of the nation's growing supply of oil. Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio have also called for ending the export ban, an idea that has drawn support from red-state Democrat Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.).

But other rank-and-file Republicans are not prepared to begin debate on crude exports. The bipartisan push for natural gas exports in recent years attracted supporters on the Hill after a longer period of study and contentious debate in the energy world, in contrast to the push for crude oil export debate, which only became prominent in the past year.

Other senators crafting amendments for the Keystone debate, which is expected to run through January, include:

- Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) will offer an amendment requiring electric utilities to produce 25 percent of their power from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources by 2025. It's the same as legislation he has offered in recent years and which hasn't had much momentum.
- Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) is working on an amendment to address petroleum coke, or petcoke. That byproduct of

refining the heavy oil Keystone would carry sparked an outcry in his home state after locals raised public health and environmental concerns connected to petcoke storage facilities along the Detroit River.

- Republican Ohio Sen. Rob Portman last week said he will offer a slimmed-down version of the energy efficiency bill he has long cosponsored with Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. That amendment is expected to mirror the House-passed version of the efficiency bill, though whether it can recruit new Democratic supporters for the broader Keystone bill remains an open question. Shaheen opposes the pipeline bill, though she backs the amendment.
- Colorado GOP Sen. Cory Gardner said Monday that he will draft an amendment on Energy Savings Performance Contracts, an efficiency initiative he spearheaded in the House before his election to the upper chamber.
- Democrats also are expected to offer amendments that require producers of the oil transported by the Keystone pipeline contribute to the federal oil spill liability trust fund, prohibit the export of oil from the pipeline and boost solar energy.

Amendment votes won't start until next week because lawmakers are out for party retreats. No votes are scheduled for Friday ahead of the three-day weekend. Lawmakers will return on Tuesday, though the day will be truncated by the State of the Union address that night.

New Subcommittee to Oversee Energy, Ag and Environment

U.S. House Republicans have established a new Interior Subcommittee on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to examine the Obama administration's energy and environmental policies.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), said the Interior Subcommittee would have oversight of the EPA, and the Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Interior. Responsibility for those agencies was previously split between two subcommittees focusing on energy and regulatory affairs.

Chaffetz appointed Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) to head the subcommittee. The energy subcommittee in December examined EPA's management of federal renewable-fuel guidelines, foreshadowing the type of work that Lummis's subcommittee may do. Janet McCabe, one of the EPA's top officials focusing on air issues, testified that the renewable-fuel standards are "an important component of the broader strategy to combat climate change."

Tax Extenders Bill Signed into Law - Short Term Fix
On Dec. 19, President Obama signed legislation to extend several tax incentives that expired at the end of 2013. Included in the bill were several tax incentives that benefit the biofuels, wind and bioenergy industries. However, as noted previously, the bill only extends the credits through December 31, 2014.

A full copy of the legislation, which extends numerous tax incentives for individuals, businesses, and other purposes, can be downloaded from the Government Printing Office [website](#).

Burns Named NRC Chairman

President Obama named Stephen Burns as the NRC's new chairman following the Jan. 1 departure of Allison Macfarlane. Burns was sworn in last November to a term lasting through 2019, but previously worked at the agency for more than three decades, including as general counsel from 2009 to 2012.

Burns becomes the second general counsel to be named chairman, after Marcus Rowden, who was general counsel for the Atomic Energy Commission and became the NRC's second chairman in 1976. Macfarlane's departure leaves an open seat on the NRC.

ERG Partners | 717-233-8606 | info@pa-erg.com | <http://www.erg-partners.com>

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**

This email was sent to eric@karks.com by info@pa-erg.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)[™] | [Privacy Policy](#).



ERG Partners | 223 State Street | 3rd Floor | Harrisburg | PA | 17101