

Tuesday October 6 2009

Waxman, Markey ask various groups to explain themselves

Reps Henry Waxman, D-Calif, and Ed Markey, D-Mass, sent letters to organizations and government agencies that forecasted the affects of the cap-and-trade bill, seeking more information on their methods.

The letters were posted to the Energy & Commerce Committee's website this weekend and went out to EPA, CRA International, the Heritage Foundation,

Natural Resources Defense Council, EIA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the American Council for Capital Formation.

"As Congress continues its consideration of this legislation, debate is likely to cite the results of economic impacts of this legislation," said the letters.

The two main backers of the American Clean Energy & Security Act want to better

understand the modeling informing the public debate. All of the groups are asked whether their models quantify the benefits of avoided climate change and what limits they place on emerging technologies seen as needed to fight global warming.

The two leaders of the House energy committee want answers by the end of next week.

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Are forces for and against competition aiming again at Maryland?

Maryland Gov Martin O'Malley, D, plans to bring up the issue of killing, or at least curtailing choice in the Old Line State, when lawmakers assume their duties in a few months but that could pose a problem in today's economic climate.

"Our members who are operating in Maryland are saving customers a ton of money," NEM President Craig Goodman told us. "If Marylanders who haven't migrated actually did migrate to the competitive market, the potential savings to consumers if they all took advantage of the offers that are out there today, it could be as high as \$250 million."

Goodman did say that the dollar amount itself was a rough estimate, but

the point remains that now would be a good time for market forces to take over.

"In a recession, where every dollar counts," Goodman added. "With energy being a regressive tax you would think every single policy maker and regulatory leader would want to bring home as much consumer savings as possible during this time when consumers are having a hard time."

While all consumers can be hit during a recession, energy doesn't impact all equally.

"It particularly affects the low income consumers. They're the ones who have less disposable income and therefore energy costs are a very high percentage of their disposable income.

"Of course, the higher you keep those prices the higher the cost is to those who can least afford it."

While marketers as individual firms, and NEM as an association of marketers, will ensure their voices are heard, it's important that lawmakers look at the whole picture, especially now when consumers are still facing a recession.

Efforts to change the competitive landscape earlier this year by eliminating choice for residential and small business customers failed. Following the defeat, O'Malley's office told us more than once that lawmakers should expect a similar push again in 2010.

[\[Comments\]](#)

New York to spend \$200,000 to fight energy waste, pollution

New York Gov David Paterson yesterday announced the creation of the New York Energy Policy Institute (NYEPI). NYEPI will coordinate the work of New York's energy research centers, using their established expertise in the field to provide a resource for the state's energy policymakers.

Power generation, transmission and use and heating fuel use are expected to be core issues initially.

"New York already has some of the brightest minds in the world and extensive academic expertise in the clean energy economy," said Paterson yesterday.

"For the first time, they will work together to provide analysis and

strategies to inform state policymakers and the beneficiaries will be the everyday New Yorkers who will get cheaper and cleaner energy."

Funding of up to \$200,000/year for up to three years has been set aside for the effort.

Initially, NYEPI will concentrate on strategies to introduce more energy efficiency and further cut energy-derived pollution, while also providing for economic development and added/grew increased employment.

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[\[Comments\]](#)

EPRI, LIPA, NYIT look at solar powered carport

The New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and EPRI are partnering on a project that will look at the use of solar carports in charging electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

Each NYIT solar carport installation was built by EmPower CES, that generates up to 10 kilowatts of electric power and can charge several vehicles at the same time.

The systems qualified for a LIPA solar rebate of about \$90,000.

"As more and more Long Islanders purchase electric and hybrid vehicles,"