

SIGMA WEEKLY REPORT

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MORE CHALLENGES TO EPA RULING

As you know, EPA announced a finding in December that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health and welfare and that cars and light trucks cause or contribute to the emissions. As a result, EPA intends to begin regulating greenhouse gas emissions as early as March. More challenges to the finding came this week as twelve House Republicans and 17 associations and companies filed a lawsuit in federal appeals court challenging the finding (*Linder v. EPA*). The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on February 10 by the Southeastern Legal Foundation on behalf of the members of Congress and the organizations. The Atlanta-based foundation filed a petition for reconsideration of the finding with EPA in December and is filing a supplemental petition that, according to the foundation, includes disclosures of scientific errors and fraud in the finding. This lawsuit comes on the heels of a House bill introduced last week that aims to amend the Clean Air Act to make clear it does not allow for regulation of greenhouse gases as it relates to global climate change. It would also amend the 2007 Energy Bill to stop EPA from calculating land use changes in foreign countries in the implementation of the renewable fuel program, and would seek to help the biofuels industry by broadening the definition of renewable biomass.

JOBS BILL ON TAP AFTER PRESIDENTS' DAY RECESS

Senate Democrats stripped extensions of several energy tax incentives from their first jobs bill hoping a narrower package will move more quickly. The package is now made up of four parts: a one-year extension of the current highway and transit law; Build America Bonds, which make it easier for state governments to borrow money for public works projects; tax credits for employers who hire new workers; and a provision to allow small businesses to write off the cost of some capital investments. It is unclear whether Republicans will latch on to this proposal, which does not include extensions of tax breaks, a promise to debate the estate tax or other items they have been advocating. The House passed a roughly \$150 billion jobs package in December. The jobs legislation will be one of the first items on tap when lawmakers return to work the week of February 22.

DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCE NEW PROPOSALS TO REGULATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING

This week, Democrats announced a sweeping new set of proposals to regulate campaign spending by corporations, unions, and other entities. Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) outlined a broad response to a Supreme Court ruling last month that held corporations cannot be barred from direct spending around elections. They intend to introduce legislation in the House and Senate during the week of February 22, with the goal of enacting it before the midterm elections in November. The two lawmakers are proposing a ban on expenditures by foreign-controlled corporations. They also want to bar direct expenditures by corporations that have received funds through the Troubled Asset Relief Program until after those funds are repaid, and bar election-related spending by federal contractors. Other proposals include new rules for disclosure of election-related spending, both to the government and to shareholders; new disclosure requirements for campaign expenditures by registered lobbyists; and requirements that CEOs appear in the broadcast ads funded by their corporations and attest to them in the same manner that candidates must endorse their own ads under existing federal election law.

SPRING CONVENTION TOURS

The [2010 SIGMA Spring Convention](#) will be held in Tucson, AZ, at the [Loews Ventana Canyon Resort](#) on April 29 - May 2, 2010. Several tours are being offered for you and your guests! On Thursday, April 29, the **Motor Fuel Outlet Tour** will travel throughout the Tucson area to see interesting and unique motor fuel retail sites. On Saturday, you can choose from two different tours. On the **Sabino Canyon Tour**, attendees will enjoy a breathtaking outdoor tram ride through Sabino Canyon, which is nestled in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. At the **PIMA Air & Space Museum**, you can explore aviation history at the home of the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the country. More than 250 military and civilian aircraft are on display, along with engines, flight simulators, uniforms and other aviation memorabilia. For more information or to [register](#), go to <http://sigma.org/blog>.