

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Energy  
**Sent:** Wed 3/15/2017 2:12:41 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers: Turn that car (regulation) around — Even deeper cuts mulled for EPA — Group of House Republicans to introduce climate resolution today

By Anthony Adragna | 03/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Daniel Lippman, Alex Guillén and Sara Stefanini*

**U-TURN ON CAR RULES:** President Donald Trump travels to Ypsilanti, Michigan today where he'll direct EPA to reconsider its recent conclusion that automakers are capable of reaching the strict greenhouse gas limits that would have vehicles getting more than 50 miles per gallon on average by 2025, Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#). "We're going to pull back the EPA's determination because we don't think it's right," a senior White House official told reporters on Tuesday. "We're going to spend another year looking at the data in front of us, making sure everything is right, so that in 2018 we can set standards that are technologically feasible, economically feasible, that allow the auto industry to grow and create jobs, that's very important for the president." Trump will direct EPA to put the midterm review - issued by the Obama EPA in its final days - back on the original schedule and make a new final determination by April 2018. A copy of the signed Federal Register notice is available [here](#).

**Not on the agenda:** For now, the president won't touch a waiver that lets California and other states enforce stricter rules within their borders. "The hope is that as you go through this process, California will be a partner and we'll figure this out," the official said. Nevertheless, the decision today marks a big win for automakers, which have pushed Trump to revisit the standards since shortly after his election. The White House downplayed the notion it necessarily will weaken the standards but suggested it saw major problems with the regulation.

**Trump's visit comes as** his administration mulls even deeper cuts to the EPA's budget than previously floated, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Shane Goldmacher [report](#), citing two sources. A Republican briefed on the issue said the budget could be slashed "a little bit north of 25 percent" and a senior administration official confirmed the cuts were under consideration. Congress is likely to oppose such draconian cuts to the agency, which were [first reported](#) by Axios.

**Getting in order:** So where is Trump's executive order on the Clean Power Plan - and will the White House release it before Steny Hoyer [starts talking](#) to a bust of Abraham Lincoln? ME hears from one source that the order is jammed up in the White House's domestic policy office. It's not clear why the freeze, but one possibility is the burgeoning size of the order. Multiple reports suggest it will go further than just rolling back the Clean Power Plan and lifting a moratorium on new federal coal leases. It will also instruct federal agencies to drop the use of the social cost of carbon in their regulatory activities, the Washington Post [reports](#), and rescind an Obama-era executive order calling for climate change to be included in National Environmental Policy Act reviews. Methane rules and other regulations could also be targeted. Sen. [Jim Inhofe](#) said Trump was planning today to sign that Clean Power Plan order during remarks on the

Senate floor, though there was no immediate confirmation from the White House.

**Advocates rally:** With looming calls for deep EPA cuts, advocates are fighting back. A coalition of labor, public health, faith, and environmental groups is hosting what it calls an "emergency rally" today at noon at the agency's headquarters to protest executive orders rolling back climate change actions and budget cuts. And NextGen Climate Action will have a live streaming puppy cam (puppies!) today at 3 p.m. EST to encourage citizens to call their senators and push for clean air and clean water protections.

**IT'S WEDNESDAY!** Hope everyone's cleaned up after Stellllllla! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Princeton's Abhiram Karuppur was first to pick out Island Park, Idaho as the longest Main Street in the country! For today: There are four commonwealths in the country. Name them. Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [aadragna@politico.com](mailto:aadragna@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy), and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

**HOUSE REPUBLICANS PUSH CLIMATE RESOLUTION:** Seventeen House Republicans, led by Rep. Carlos Curbelo, will today introduce a resolution calling for action to address climate change. "There are many, many more Republicans in the House who are interested in this issue," the Florida Republican told reporters. "We have come a long way and we also recognize we have a long way to go."

Curbelo said the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, which now boasts more than two dozen members, would turn its attention this Congress to becoming an "ideas factory" for addressing climate change rather than just a forum for discussion. He also condemned the false "disconcerting" comments of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt last week that carbon dioxide is not driving climate change, calling it "akin to saying the globe is flat in the year 2017."

**\*\* A message from American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers:** Progress means taking on challenges to enhance standards of living for millions in the United States and for growing populations across the globe. Learn how American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers are making our lives easier, healthier, safer and more productive at <https://www.afpm.org/>. At AFPM, we make progress. \*\*

**WHAT ARE YOU HEARING?** Committees of interest to ME readers are ramping up their hearing schedules today. A House Natural Resources panel holds an oversight hearing on the Obama administration's expansion and dedication of marine national monuments, which critics argue is an example of federal overreach and likely to impose harms on domestic fishing economies. It kicks off at 10:00 a.m. in Longworth 1324 (background memo).

**New approaches to invasive species:** The Senate EPW Committee will hear from people in the field about "new technologies and innovative ideas people are using both to control invasive species population growth and prevent illegal poaching" during a hearing today, according to a committee aide. Witnesses include Jim Kurth, acting director of the Fish & Wildlife Service, and Carter Roberts, president of the World Wildlife Fund. The proceedings gavel in at 10:00 a.m. in Dirksen 406.

**Giving a new jolt to hydropower:** Members of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee will look at challenges to further deploying hydropower installations nationwide during a hearing moved to 1:15 p.m. today. A [background memo](#) says the lengthy licensing process creates "significant uncertainty and has the potential to delay or prevent investments" that would speed new installations, but lawmakers will also look at uncertainty regarding guaranteed revenue from the projects as a significant obstacle. The hearing takes place in Rayburn 2123.

**Regulatory revamps get Senate markup:** Two House-passed bills overhauling the regulatory process - the [REINS Act](#) (S. 21) and the [Midnight Rules Relief Act](#) (S. 34) - get marked up in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Reform Committee today at 10:00 a.m. Ahead of the session, the Blue Green Alliance sent senators [a letter](#) urging them to oppose both measures.

**DOCTORS GET IN FORMATION OVER CLIMATE:** Eleven of the nation's leading medical associations will today announce the formation of [a consortium](#) to outline the impacts to public health from climate change and urge the transition to clean energy. The group will release a report at 10:30 a.m. documenting direct health impacts from increasingly violent weather, the spread of disease through insects and mental health effects linked to climate change. And it plans to send letters to the National Governors Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Trump administration outlining the health benefits of transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

**HEAD WEST, YOUNG FEDERAL EMPLOYEE!** California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker will be handing out flyers in front of EPA and DOE headquarters today and tomorrow in hopes of enticing federal employees to come to the Golden State to continue their work on climate change and clean energy. "On climate action, there's a dark cloud hanging over Washington right now," Picker said in a statement. "My message is simple: Come West, California is hiring."

**ZINKE'S ADVENTUROUS SNOW DAY:** Washington's bout of winter weather "[caused a lot of meeting cancellations](#)" for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, so he opted instead to do [a ride along](#) with the U.S. Park Police, visit the [slick Lincoln Memorial](#) and hold an [impromptu meeting](#) with a few of the Interior employees who made it into work.

**CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS 'ANTI-SCIENCE' LAWMAKERS:** 314 Action, a new organization dedicated to promoting sound science in public policy making, launched [a campaign](#) targeting three House Science Committee members - [Lamar Smith](#), [Dana Rohrabacher](#) and [Steve Knight](#) - who it said deny basic scientific facts despite never having studied or worked in scientific jobs. "The House Science Committee has been devastating to science under Chairman Lamar Smith's leadership, and it's time for those who stand for science, facts and reason to organize and push back," Shaughnessy Naughton, the group's founder, said in a statement.

**McKENNA HOLDS COURT:** Canadian Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna talks about her country's actions to address carbon emissions during a 2:30 p.m.

discussion today at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She'll then deliver remarks at Embassy of Canada's Great Lakes Reception at 6:30 p.m. to stress the ongoing importance of U.S.-Canada cooperation on efforts to protect the Great Lakes.

**MAIL CALL! FROM RUSSIA WITHOUT LOVE:** Sens. Maria Cantwell and Ron Wyden, top Democrats on the energy and finance panels, sent a letter to Trump on Tuesday urging him to make clear DOE is responsible for defending against cyberattacks to the nation's energy infrastructure and asking for a "thorough analysis" of Russia's ability to deploy cyberattacks on energy systems. "It is imperative that we are doing everything we can to harden and protect our infrastructure from very real and imminent threats," they wrote.

**HOUSE MEMBERS PUSH TILLERSON ON PARIS:** The co-chairs of the Safe Climate Caucus and the Climate Solutions Caucus pressed Secretary of State Rex Tillerson not to withdraw from the Paris agreement on climate change. "We urge you to continue making the case to the Administration that the United States should not give up its seat at the table," they wrote in a letter released Tuesday.

**REPORTS EXAMINE CALIFORNIA OIL FIELDS:** Two reports out today from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Energy & Climate recommend greater transparency over California's oil operations. One report urged the state to collect detailed chemical analysis on an oil's composition for public review and identified a cluster of high- and medium-risk oils in the Bakersfield area. The other examines the state's largest and most productive oilfield, Midway Sunset, and urges greater routine collection of standardized, open-source oil data there.

**TAKE A GLANCE! PUBLIC LAND ENEMIES PICKED:** The Center for Biological Diversity released a report naming its top 15 public lands enemies in Congress. Among the high-profile picks: House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz and Senate ENR Chairman Lisa Murkowski.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR:** Energy Secretary Rick Perry will deliver the keynote address at the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's legislative summit closing gala Thursday at the Mellon Auditorium (h/t POLITICO Influence).

**NATO WANTS TO GO GREEN:** NATO's efforts to make the military more energy efficient are aimed at both reducing its reliance on fossil fuels as well as shrinking its environmental footprint, the alliance said in the annual report published this week. As part of that, NATO wants to provide new mobile power generators (such as solar panels, wind turbines and smart grids) and train the military to make sure that new energy technologies "can work seamlessly together" in the field, where fossil fuels deliveries (such as oil tanks) could be disrupted. For more on NATO's clean energy efforts, read POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini's story from last year.

**MOVER, SHAKER:** Rob Gramlich has started the consulting firm Grid Strategies LLC, working for renewable energy, storage and transmission organizations to improve the grid's ability to integrate and deliver new energy sources. He most recently was senior vice president for government and public affairs for the American Wind Energy Association and previously

oversaw at different times state policy, federal regulatory policy, public affairs, research and federal legislative issues at AWEA and also oversaw the Wind Energy Foundation, with a stint as interim CEO. Prior to joining AWEA he was economic adviser to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III.

**Gil Jenkins** is headed to the American Council on Renewable Energy as vice president of communications. He was previously a vice president with Ogilvy Public Relations, working on sustainability and clean energy communications (h/t [POLITICO Influence](#)).

## QUICK HITS

- EPA Deputy Accused of Working With Monsanto to Kill Cancer Study. [Bloomberg](#).
- EPA environmental justice leader on his resignation: 'I needed to stand up'. [ThinkProgress](#).
- As China's Coal Mines Close, Miners Are Becoming Bolder In Voicing Demands. [NPR](#).
- Oil drops to 3-month low, U.S. erases all gains since OPEC output cut. [Reuters](#).
- British scientists face a 'huge hit' if the US cuts climate change research. [The Guardian](#).

## THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

**\*\* A message from American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers:** Gaining access to nutritious food, clean water and top medical solutions are challenges for millions of people - but American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers are helping make life-saving innovations more widely available. Fuels from AFPM-member refineries help transport nutritious foods thousands of miles from rural farms to urban food deserts. AFPM members are responsible for the purification systems and plastic pipes bringing clean water to populations in developing countries. The ultra-light, ultra-strong prosthetics restoring mobility to thousands who have lost limbs are made possible thanks to advanced plastics made with AFPM member petrochemical products. And that's only the beginning. Learn more about how American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers are making our lives easier, healthier, safer and more productive at <https://www.afpm.org/>. At AFPM, we make progress. \*\*

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