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From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Thur 6/29/2017 12:27:24 AM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 28, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to Congress, where House Democrats criticized sharp funding cuts for clean energy programs at the Energy Department (DOE) in a fiscal year 2018 funding bill drafted by majority Republicans, arguing the cuts would set the country back in efforts to address climate change.

Our news roundup offered an early look at the proposed House cuts to DOE, which are far less in many cases than what the White House had requested.

We brought some personnel news, with a new internal EPA staff memo from Ryan Jackson, chief of staff to Administrator Scott Pruitt, that shows a host of new political aides at the agency that do not require Senate confirmation, including a new senior deputy general counsel who comes from the American Petroleum Institute.

Speaking of personnel, the top Democrat on the Senate environment committee, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), is poised to vote against the confirmation of EPA enforcement chief nominee Susan Bodine, citing Pruitt's failure to provide baseline data the senator has been seeking.

In the courts, EPA is asking a federal appellate court to further hold litigation challenging the agency's greenhouse gas endangerment finding for the aircraft sector in abeyance, citing ongoing "discussions" with the agricultural groups that brought the suit.

And in other litigation news, the Natural Resources Defense Council is asking a federal district court to force EPA to respond to its Freedom of Information Act request seeking the agency's website retention policies, after EPA began removing climate-related information from its site soon after the Trump administration took office.

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