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Subject: First Move: Brown Coloring Bonn • Taxing Debate Ahead on Alaska Refuge Drilling

What you need to know to start your day.

Brown Coloring Bonn • Taxing Debate Ahead on Alaska Refuge Drilling

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Heads of state—not state governors—often take center stage at international conferences. But California’s chief executive, Jerry Brown, is a constant presence at the U.N. climate talks in Bonn, which wrap up this week.

The 79-year-old Democrat has made more than a dozen appearances at various events to highlight what he says is an urgent need for action on climate change in the wake of President Trump’s decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement. This week, Brown is scheduled as keynote speaker or panelist at several more sessions, including a:

- forum with other Democratic governors on state-driven climate leadership;
- panel on a global summit that he’ll host next September in San Francisco; and
- forum organized by China on a carbon-emissions trading program. California has such a program and China is looking to start its own.

California Gov. Jerry Brown attends an energy summit in China in June.
Fred Dufour/AFP/Getty Images

State Department negotiators are representing the Trump administration at the Bonn talks, which also feature a contingent of Democratic pro-Paris pact senators. [Dean Scott](#) is covering the talks, which business groups [hope](#) includes progress on carbon trading and other market mechanisms to address climate that were included in the Paris pact.

Republicans have tried for decades to allow drilling for oil in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This week, their work begins in earnest over whether they can do so as part of the GOP’s massive tax-cut plan.

Alaska Republican Lisa Murkowski, head of the Senate energy committee, will oversee a [panel markup](#) on Wednesday concerning her plan. Unveiled last week, the proposal would bring the government almost \$1.1 billion during the next decade

from leasing out a section of the refuge for drilling.

There's little doubt that Murkowski has enough votes in her committee to bring the measure to the Senate floor, where—under budget rules—she and other drilling supporters need only a majority, not the 60 votes required on most Senate legislation. The still-unanswered question is whether Democrats who abhor the idea can persuade enough Republicans to join them. [Alan Kovski](#) is covering.

Other Stories We're Covering

- Trump's pick to head the federal mine safety agency is likely to get a Senate vote this week. [Stephen Lee](#) is watching.
- The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners is gathering in Baltimore with an agenda of speakers that include FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson and Travis Fisher of the Energy Department's electricity reliability office. [Rebecca Kern](#) will cover those, while [David Schultz](#) will cover developments on water utility issues.
- The National Clean Water Law Seminar, to occur Tuesday through Thursday in Savannah, Ga., will look at legal and regulatory challenges the clean water sector faces. [Amena H. Saiyid](#) is tracking.
- FERC commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday amid continued discussion about the energy storage rulemaking request it's considering from the Energy Department. [Rebecca Kern](#) is monitoring.
- Energy has become one of the points of contention in the congressional debates between House Republicans and Senate Republicans over what their final tax bill should look like. Bloomberg News and Bloomberg Environment are following.
- U.S. investment executives will join Mexican business officials and regulators at the Platts 21st Annual Mexican Energy Conference in Mexico City. [Emily Pickrell](#) is covering.

Quote of the Day

"Don't you have some duty to act? That's the level best the EPA can do?"
—Federal appeals judge Patricia Millett, addressing the Trump administration about toxic pollution standards for brick kilns. Those standards were to have been issued in 2000; the EPA has sought two extra years to review them.

This Week's Events

On the Hill

- **Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. • Hurricanes** • Senate energy committee holds hearing on hurricane recovery efforts.
- **Tuesday, 10 a.m. • Bills** • Senate environment committee's clean air and nuclear safety panel holds hearing on various bills addressing emissions

- standards and other issues.
- **Tuesday, 10 a.m. • Hurricanes** • House energy committee's environment panel hold hearing on hurricane response and recovery.
 - **Tuesday, 2 p.m. • Hurricanes** • House Natural Resources Committee holds hearing on hurricane recovery, focusing on transparency in financial accountability.
 - **Wednesday, 10 a.m. • Air Emissions** • Senate environment committee holds hearing on reducing air emissions through innovation.

Elsewhere

- **Monday, 2 p.m. • Fuel Efficiency** • Environmental & Energy Study Institute sponsors webcasted briefing on how high-octane, low-carbon fuel can enable fuel-economy compliance.
- **Monday, 2 p.m. • Carbon Capture** • U.S. Energy Association host forum featuring Energy Department official and others on ways for government and industry to fund coal-based power generation and carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies.
- **Wednesday, 8 a.m. • Energy** • West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee, and others speak at CQ News/Roll Call forum on energy policy.
- **Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. • Ozone** • Ozone Transport Commission meets jointly with Mid-Atlantic Northeast Visibility Union to discuss reducing ozone and regional haze.
- **Wednesday, 10 a.m. • ARPA-E** • Information Technology & Innovation Foundation holds forum on the Energy Department's advanced research projects office's role in clean energy innovation.
- **Thursday, 10 a.m. • Carbon Emissions** • Virginia's Air Pollution Control Board meets to discuss the Clean Energy Virginia carbon-reduction standard.

Around the Web

- FEMA is caught in the middle of the political debates over climate change science and the need to plan for future extreme weather events.
- Another veteran House Republican—Virginia's Bob Goodlatte, the Judiciary Committee chairman and a critic of mandating ethanol for gasoline—is calling it quits following a Democratic-dominated election in his state.
- Congress's investigative arm should review EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's advisory board choices, Senate Democrats say.

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