



2009 Memorial Day Recess – GOP Newsletter

Prioritizing The President's Science & Technology Budget

In a hearing on May 14, Republican Members got a chance to question Dr. John Holdren, Director of OSTP, regarding priorities in the President's FY10 budget request. While commending the President's R&D budget for continuing the commitment to basic research funding, initiated by Congress and the Bush Administration through the America COMPETES Act, Republican Members expressed a number of concerns with the budget's priorities:

- **NASA**

Members expressed frustration with the President's lack of direction and funding for human spaceflight at NASA. While NASA has made tremendous progress over the past five years, it is still on a path to retire the Space Shuttle without having developed its replacement vehicle and launch capabilities. Further, the President's budget reduces the out-year funding for the Constellation system by more than \$3 billion.

- **Energy Policy**

Members also questioned Obama's energy policies, which most Republicans agree, would increase the costs of energy to Americans.



"From actively opposing expanded energy exploration and production, to cutting funding for fossil fuels R&D, to aggressively pursuing increased taxes through a 'cap and trade' regime—the costs of which are massive and certain while the benefits are minimal and highly uncertain—the new Administration has come out of the gate with its energy policy on backwards." – *Ranking Member Hall*

Exploring the (Lack of) Science Supporting CO2 Regulation

In a hearing on April 22, Republicans learned from a panel of expert witnesses that there are significant limitations in the science of monitoring, measuring, and verifying sources and sinks of greenhouse gases (GHG), their atmospheric chemistry and their impacts on Earth's climate. These data limitations have fueled concerns by some Committee Republicans about H.R. 2407, the *National Climate Service Act of 2009*, which the Committee is scheduled to consider the week following Memorial Day recess and which is slated to be included in the Waxman-Markey cap and trade bill.

The premise of the climate change debate is based on the idea that we can accurately measure, monitor and verify greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere through offsets. The fact that the methods and monitoring technologies are still relatively new and unreliable, and others are still in the development phase, means that we cannot assure the American people that any regulatory framework designed to regulate GHGs based on such methods and technology will not be harmful to the economy. Witnesses at the hearing said that outside the electric generation industry there are very few direct measurements of the GHG emissions that would be required to establish a baseline and further, measuring emissions or sequestration from forest or agricultural areas is extremely challenging.

Ensuring Stimulus Funding Accountability

The stimulus bill put taxpayers on the line for \$3.27 trillion, when you add debt servicing and account for program extensions. Under the Obama budget, the national debt will double in five years and triple in ten.



In a hearing on May 5, the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee heard from witnesses who discussed the difficulty in ensuring transparency of money spent from the Stimulus. While no Republicans voted for the bill, the Science Committee has an obligation to identify potential waste, fraud, and abuse of Stimulus R&D funds.

GOP Bills that have passed the House

- H.Res. 387 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week (Diaz-Balart);
- H.Res. 413 - Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009 (Stearns);
- HR 957 – Green Energy Education Act of 2009 (McCaul);
- H.Res. 67 - Recognizing NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Cornell University for the success of the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the 5th anniversary of the Rovers' successful landing (Dreier);
- HR 469 – Produced Water Utilization Act of 2009 (Hall).