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Growing a greener GOP from the ground up!

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THE CLIMATE DEBATE: REP'S PERSPECTIVE

by Jim DiPeso, Vice President for Policy and Communications

After running a fever for a while and noticing abnormal aches and pains, you see a specialist. The doctor examines you, runs tests, and says you have a serious disease. Without immediate treatment, it will worsen over time and be harder, if not impossible, to cure.

Since the treatment is unpleasant and will cost money that you would rather spend on other things, you decide to get a second opinion. Same warning, same prescription.

You ask for a third, fourth, and fifth opinion. Same answer.

After visiting nine specialists, you visit a 10th doctor who tells you what you want to hear—that all of the other specialists are wrong, your health is fine, and you can forget the whole thing.

Now you can get on with your life. You saved a lot of money. You and your family have nothing to worry about. *Or do you?*

We have all been exposed to “cap and tax” rhetoric from the talk-radio crowd, Fox News, and Republican leaders in Congress demonizing the climate bill that passed the House of Representatives in June and is now being considered in the Senate.

You have probably heard claims that the bill would greatly increase energy costs, enrich Wall Street at our expense, and wreck the economy.

For the most part, these attacks are coming from people who do not believe that carbon dioxide emissions generated by burning fossil fuels are causing climate change. They choose

to ignore the nine doctors and listen only to the tenth doctor, because that is the diagnosis they want to hear.

The inflated cost numbers that they attach to the climate bill are ginned up by groups like the Heritage Foundation, which share their skepticism about climate change. These “estimates” are the result of cherry-picked data and contrived assumptions that shape the numbers to fit with the skeptics’ political agenda. They differ greatly from estimates provided by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

REP SUPPORT FOR ACES


The American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) is not the climate bill that Republicans for Environmental Protection would have written. It is overly complex and overly prescriptive. It symbolizes the old joke that equates drafting legislation with sausage making. It is not easy to watch.

At the end of the day, however, REP praised the eight House Republicans who voted in favor of ACES. Their support was crucial to passing the bill and sending it on to the Senate, which has an opportunity to improve the bill if senators on both sides of the aisle act responsibly.

We concluded that, despite the bill’s flaws, passing ACES was the right thing for the House to do. Further delays in limiting greenhouse gas emissions are not acceptable. Nor can America wait any longer to begin reducing our country’s dangerous dependence on oil.

Had Republican leaders rallied behind a GOP alternative that would actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as a revenue-neutral carbon tax, a cap and dividend proposal, or Senator John McCain’s cap and trade plan, REP would be pushing it enthusiastically.

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They didn't. Instead they dusted off a bunch of old energy production proposals, such as drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, slapped them together as an alternative, and ignored climate entirely.

THE COST OF INACTION

Ignoring climate change is not an option. The weight of evidence indicates that the impacts of climate change are hitting earlier and harder than scientists had projected only two years ago. As serious as the 2007 projections were, they understated the threat.

In a joint statement released in June, the national science academies of the United States and 12 other large nations reported:

“Climate change is happening even faster than previously estimated; global (carbon dioxide) emissions since 2000 have been higher than even the highest predictions, Arctic sea ice has been melting at rates much faster than predicted, and the rise in the sea level has become more rapid. Feedbacks in the climate system might lead to much more rapid climate changes. The need for urgent action to address climate change is now indisputable.”

In another statement, the science academies of the U.S. and more than five dozen other countries, large and small, indicated that carbon dioxide emissions are causing the world's oceans to become more acidic, which could lead to irreversible damage to fisheries that supply protein-rich food to millions of people.

You can download and read the statements for yourself at <http://dels.nas.edu/climatechange/>

Doing nothing about greenhouse gas emissions would result in greater risk of extreme weather, damage to natural resources, and threats to public health. A study released earlier

this year by a group of climatologists concluded that the trigger point for risks, including the risk of pushing the climate system past dangerous tipping points, is at lower emissions levels than scientists had estimated as recently as 2001. In other words, we have less of a margin for error. Delaying action could result in higher costs and more damaging consequences sooner than we had earlier believed.

Reducing emissions will not be a free lunch, as some Democrats and environmental organizations imply. However, analyses by CBO and EPA show that the costs would be manageable, shaving the gross domestic product by less than 1 percent.

Importantly, those analyses are conservative to a fault. They compare the costs of implementing climate legislation to a business-as-usual scenario that assumes no costs of inaction.

In the real world, however, there would be significant costs of doing nothing, as the best available climate science has concluded.

Doug Holtz-Eakin, domestic policy adviser to the McCain campaign last year, wrote on *NewMajority.com*:

“The balance of risks says to do something. In the end, it comes down to paying a price to raise the odds of a better future for our children, nation, and globe. Aren't conservatives the breed most dedicated to fighting the costly fights and taking the difficult stands to achieve this goal?”

Holtz-Eakin reminded his fellow Republicans that “conservatives favor preserving freedom of opportunity for the generations to follow.” It would not be conservative to play fast and loose with our environmental inheritance today and leave it for future generations to pick up the pieces.

ENERGY SECURITY

Climate change and national security are closely related. A report published in May by a panel of retired U.S. generals and admirals warned that climate change would be a “threat multiplier” and urged the federal government to push the development of low-carbon technologies.


Admiral Joseph Lopez, U.S. Navy (Ret.), former commander-in-chief of U.S. naval forces in Europe, pointed out that climate change increases the odds of destabilizing events, such as droughts and violent weather, in “regions of the world that are already fertile ground for extremism.”

Waiting for perfect information about climate change before acting would be a prescription for disaster, said another one of the panelists, General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army (Ret.), former Army chief of staff. As General Sullivan put it:

“If you wait until you have 100 percent certainty, something bad is going to happen on the battlefield... You have to act with incomplete information. You have to act based on the trend line.”

Oil usage accounts for about 36 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Oil dependence is a threat to national security, because our demand for petroleum supports hostile regimes and exposes our economy to unpredictable price spikes. That dependence will worsen in the absence of action, especially once the economy begins to recover and energy demand resumes rising.

Even with its economy in a weakened state, the U.S. accounts for more than 22 percent of global oil consumption. Our share of global oil production, however, is less than 8 percent and our share of proven global reserves is less than 3 percent, according to the latest edition of BP's Statistical Review of World Energy.



Consequently, there is no realistic prospect that “drill, baby, drill” could unshackle the U.S. from the global oil market, its price volatility, and the baleful influence of unfriendly petroleum-exporting regimes. As Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, U.S. Navy (Ret.) testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 21:

“We simply do not have enough resources in this country to free us from the stranglehold of those who do. We find ourselves entangled with unfriendly rulers and undemocratic nations simply because we need their oil.”

Only a concerted effort to commercialize new fuels and drive technologies could free our transportation systems from their near total dependence on petroleum.

Doing nothing about oil dependence raises the odds that Americans will be hit with damaging price spikes like 2008’s, when petroleum surged to \$140 per barrel. Doing nothing about oil dependence perpetuates U.S. vulnerability to hostile regimes.

CAP AND INNOVATION

How would ACES address the related problems of greenhouse gas emissions and oil dependence?

By instituting an emissions cap, the bill would send a price signal to energy markets that releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere imposes costs on human society and the environment. A carbon cap is not a “tax,” as demagogic rhetoric from congressional Republican leaders would have voters believe. Instead, a cap amounts to paying for CO₂’s

costs. *“You’re being charged a fee for the damage you’re doing to the environment,”* J. Wayne Leonard, CEO of Entergy, which owns electric utilities in the South, said in a recent media interview.

A number of large utilities, including some that depend on carbon-rich coal for a significant portion of their resource portfolios, support a legislated cap on carbon emissions. Their executives have pointed out repeatedly that setting out clear rules would enable their companies to plan investments in energy infrastructure that both reduces emission and stimulates the growth of new industries in low-carbon energy technologies.

Duke Energy is the third largest consumer of coal in the United States. Duke’s CEO, Jim Rogers, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a May 19 hearing that certainty creates opportunity: “The right comprehensive energy and carbon legislation can provide not only the certainty and rules of the road by which we can plan, build and compete, it will also protect consumers, help us advance efficiency and alternative technology efforts, and all while cleaning up the environment.”

At the committee hearing, Rogers made it clear that other countries are not sitting around waiting for the U.S. to make up its mind about developing low-carbon technologies. He quoted an estimate from the research firm New Energy Finance that the global market for low-carbon technologies could reach \$600 billion by 2020. “Without a U.S. carbon program, we will not be participating in this lucrative market,” Rogers told the committee.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Further delay would put climate legislation into the spin cycle of the 2010 and 2012 campaigns. Posturing for 2010 already has begun. Once the campaign gets going in earnest, Congress will be consumed with electoral politics for the better part of the next three years.

In sum, the costs of doing nothing about climate change are high. Climate change is real and the impacts are hitting home faster than we anticipated. It is linked to our heavy dependence on oil and other fossil fuels that create a subset of economic and national security risks that urgently command our attention.

Doing nothing about climate change would be a disservice to our country, its citizens, and our unborn descendants. As conservatives, we believe that we owe them the duty of being good stewards of our natural endowment, including a stable atmosphere. A great, enterprising country that built the transcontinental railroad, dug the Panama Canal, won two world wars, and put men on the moon can deal with climate change more effectively than any other country in the world. All that’s needed is the will to act.

We applaud the House Republicans who put country ahead of partisan political agendas and voted to pass ACES and send it to the Senate. (See page 5.) We urge the Senate’s Democratic leaders to work in good faith with Republican senators who take climate change seriously and have thought through balanced ideas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Working together, they can improve ACES and give America a climate bill to be proud of. ★★

Note: REP’s board –approved policy paper on climate and energy can be found at: http://www.rep.org/policy/energy_climate_full.html

If you have any questions about the climate bill as it is being considered and refined in the Senate, please feel free to contact David Jenkins, VP for Government and Political Affairs at djenkins@rep.org or Jim DiPeso, VP for Policy and Communications at jdipeso@rep.org.

The President's Podium

by Rob Sisson



The Green Elephant

Some of you might be thinking, "Hey, this is the first Green Elephant I've received in quite awhile."

With rising costs for paper, printing and postage, we issued our previous *Green Elephant* in digital format on our website. Although a notice with a link to the publication was emailed to most of our members, we know that about nine percent of our members either do not have email addresses or have not provided them to us. Many of our peer environmental groups use only digital means to communicate with their members. While that is not our intent, the realities of operating a non-profit today dictate more frequent use of email to communicate with our members.

If you have not provided your email address to us, please do so today. Otherwise, we have to expend scarce resources to make sure you get important information.

Please address an email to: office@rep.org. Thank you!

The Importance of Being REP

Some people wrote REP off after the 2008 elections. With Democrats controlling Congress and the White House, many thought we weren't needed anymore. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Our efforts led to the passage in March of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, which would not have passed without GOP votes. REP had been in the trenches for three years, laying the groundwork for its passage.

Similarly, I've fielded many calls from peer groups who want our help with the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would not have passed the House in June without GOP votes. In the Senate it will also need the support of Republican senators to pass. *REP is still critical to the environmental movement.*

In May, GOP pollster Whit Ayres did a poll in Illinois for another national environmental group. The results reinforce our belief that "being green" increases the electability of Republican candidates in most districts and states. This is the leverage we hold in our party. REP's policy and messaging expertise must be a part of any roadmap to rebuild the party. *REP is still critical to the Republican Party.*

Success in our environmental protection effort bodes well for Republicans. Success in greening up the GOP bodes well for the environmental movement.

If we work together, we can change this nation.

Why We Do What We Do

The second weekend of July found me in upstate New York, along the western edge of the Adirondacks, for a family reunion. I had the chance to visit a rustic camp owned by a distant cousin, and fish for brook trout. The stream is so clean that we still drink water directly from it. For my sons, it was an eye-opening experience. They've only heard, "don't drink the water" from me on other trips.

While I was fly-fishing by myself, the skies darkened and a downpour chased me into a log lean-to where I sat for much of an hour. I watched the rain pelt the pond and a lone beaver navigate between tree snags. The scent of pine trees and forest duff flooded the air. It felt good. It felt cleansing.

It reinforced my passion for REP and what we do. I want my sons to be able to take their children there someday, to drink cold, crystal clear water from the stream and to catch beautiful six-inch-long brook trout. I want them to share and pass along an outdoors heritage as old as our country. Above all, I want them to encounter the pure sense of being alive that can only be found in nature.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful organization and helping us achieve our mission.

David Jenkins' Washington Report

A Landmark Victory

The fourth time was the charm for the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, the most important conservation bill that Congress has passed in many years. This package protects nearly two million acres of wilderness and a thousand miles of wild and scenic rivers, including special places in the

White Mountains and Sierra Nevada (CA), Rocky Mountain National Park (CO), Owyhee Canyonlands (ID), Mount Hood (OR), Blue Ridge Mountains (VA), and Monongahela National Forest (WV).

The legislation also formally codifies the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) into law, helping ensure sound manage-

ment of the scenic, wildlife, and archaeological resources on our best BLM multi-use lands. It protects 1.2 million acres of the Wyoming Range from oil and gas development, establishes new conservation areas, national historic and scenic trails, and three national parks.

Even though the bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support, **Rob Bishop** (UT)



and **Doc Hastings** (WA) rallied enough GOP opposition to block its passage under a House suspension vote that required two-thirds of those voting to be in favor. Clever parliamentary maneuvering overcame the obstruction. The bill overwhelmingly passed the House with the support of 38 Republicans.* Representatives **Mary Bono Mack** (CA) and **Mike Simpson** (ID) deserve thanks for working hard to rally GOP support.

In the Senate, the bill passed with a majority of GOP votes (21).* Senators **Lisa Murkowski** (AK) and **John Barrasso** (WY) deserve thanks for defending the bill and helping garner Republican votes.

President Obama signed the bill into law on March 30.

REP staff, board and state leaders had pushed for three years to bring in all those GOP votes. We can pat ourselves on the back and count it among our top accomplishments.

REP Called It

Sometimes being right is no cause to celebrate.

During last year's presidential race, REP touted John McCain's pledge to end the practice of mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining, which Barack Obama had not promised. We believed his hesitation was due to the influence of West Virginia's powerful pro-MTR Democrats, Congressman Nick Rahall and Senator Robert Byrd. Other environmental groups were so busy promoting Obama and attacking McCain that our concern—possibly viewed as partisan carping—failed to gain any traction.

That changed when Obama's EPA announced in May that it would grant permits for 42 of 48 MTR projects. That drew quick criticism from many environmental groups, including those that had supported Obama.

Obama's EPA defended its decision by claiming that MTR mining—the

tops of mountains are blown off and the debris is dumped into streams—has little environmental impact.

That claim was followed in June by an administration announcement of an interagency plan to reduce the impacts of MTR through better enforcement of current laws and a more comprehensive permitting process. This was not good news, since it showed that Obama plans to allow the practice to continue.

Joan Mulhern, Senior Legislative Counsel for Earthjustice, wrote in a press release: "*The questions for the administration are: will they stop the destruction caused by mountaintop removal or not? Will they follow the Bush administration's policies of allowing enormous piles of waste*

to be dumped into streams, forever burying them, or not?"

A *Los Angeles Times* story on the administration's MTR policies may have provided the answer: "*Although environmentalists had expected the new administration to put the brakes on mountaintop removal, Rahall and other mining advocates have pointed out that Obama did not promise to end the practice and was more open to it than his Republican opponent, Arizona Sen. John McCain.*"

Where have we heard that before?

David Jenkins is Vice President for Government and Political Affairs.

* For a full list of the Republicans who voted for the omnibus lands bill, see REP's press release on passage at: http://www.rep.org/opinions/press_releases/release09-3-25.html

Proud to Praise 'Em!

Finally, the House has passed a cap-and-trade bill to address climate change: H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES).

As soon as the bill emerged, GOP leaders somehow thought it wise to play politics with the task of safeguarding our atmosphere. They came up with the polarizing slogan "cap-and-tax" to describe the cap-and-trade bill and launched a public campaign to gin up opposition. The effort made moderate Republicans and Democrats nervous about supporting a bill that was being railed against on talk radio as increasing energy costs.

To win the support of moderate Democrats, the bill's authors made big concessions—giving away 85 percent of emissions allowances, reducing near-term emissions reduction targets, and allowing increased offsets. They later made more concessions to win over farm state Democrats.

Largely left out of negotiations were moderate Republicans. With their own party leaders politicizing the issue and the Democrats ignoring them, only eight brave Republicans voted for ACES. Hearty thanks to:

Mary Bono Mack (CA)
Mark Kirk (IL)
Frank LoBiondo (NJ)
Dave Reichert (WA)

Mike Castle (DE)
Leonard Lance (NJ)
John McHugh (NY)
Chris Smith (NJ)

Now we have a bill headed to the Senate that is both weaker and more partisan than it should be. Getting 60 votes to pass it will not be easy. Still, as imperfect as the process and the product are, ACES is the only viable vehicle to address climate change this year. It is *not* the bill REP would have written, but it *is* better than the alternative, which is to do nothing while the problem continues to worsen and gets costlier to fix. (*See cover story.*)

What's been happening at national REP?

Without question, the most exciting thing on the horizon is the prospect that three members of our REP family could be elected to the U.S. Senate next year. Former Connecticut Congressman and current REP Director **Rob Simmons** (who in 2000 was our first member ever elected to Congress) has announced for the Senate. Polls have consistently shown him leading the incumbent Democrat, often by double digits.

And two sitting congressmen and members of REP's Honorary Board—**Mark Kirk** of Illinois and **Mike Castle** of Delaware—have also announced for the Senate. (Kirk was the first person that REP ever endorsed for Congress.) We'd love to be able to help three of "our own kind" win Senate seats in 2010!

Internally, the most significant thing to happen to REP in many years is the retirement of co-founder and 14-year volunteer president, **Martha Marks**, and the transfer of executive authority to a new president, **Rob Sisson**, who had been serving as membership and development director. The transition—including moving the national office from Albuquerque, NM, to Sturgis, MI, where Rob lives—has gone well. And, of course, Martha remains involved as chairman of the Board of Directors, so she's always available to consult with Rob.

Rob and two senior staffers—Vice President for Policy and Communications **Jim DiPeso** and Vice President for Government and Political Affairs **David Jenkins**—spent a week last winter at a staff retreat at Martha's Santa Fe home. After days of strategizing and planning, the four went out for a head-clearing outing to nearby Bandelier National Monument.

Anyone who'd like to follow what Martha and her husband, **Bernie**, are doing in their "retirement"—we use the term loosely!—can sign up at marthamarks.com for their free friends-and-family e-newsletter: "Two for Art." Bernie does fine paintings of the Western landscape; Martha now has lots more time for travel and wildlife photography. Plus, she's publishing her first novel, *Rubies of the Viper*, a romantic-suspense novel set in ancient Rome. The book was 15 years in the writing, because she gave so much of that time to REP. If you're curious, you'll find it on amazon.com and Martha's website (with an extensive sample on the latter).

Utah REP Coordinator **Philip Carlson** has served for six years on the Salt Lake County GOP's Executive Committee; working to improve their platform. Recently, he was interviewed about that effort on a local radio show. He later wrote to REP: "I chaired the Platform Committee and angered the Libertarian/Constitution wing. The host said he'd like me to come in again. He doesn't yet know I'm an environmentalist. I bet I can get a drive-time discussion going on that, but it will likely be contentious. I'll wait for a good plan before bringing that up with him. Guidance appreciated!"

News flash: Republicans believe in protecting the environment. And we believe in playing it straight with the facts.

There are plenty of us green Republicans out here, including leaders like Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman—President Barack Obama's nominee to be ambassador to China—Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Rep. Mark Kirk of Illinois, to name a few.

As Huntsman said last year, "If we're going to survive as a party, we need to focus on the environment." But protecting the environment isn't just political expediency; it's core philosophy. We don't think it's a coincidence that "conservative" and "conservationist" sound so much alike. And we don't think it's a coincidence that many of our landmark environmental bills—the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990—were signed into law by Republican presidents.

It was President Ronald Reagan who negotiated the 1987 international treaty to safeguard the Earth's protective ozone layer by phasing out the use of chlorofluorocarbons. That's why it is so frustrating when my fellow Republicans today play games around one of the most important environmental issues of our time.

Climate change is real, it's caused by humans, and it will create serious risks for our nation's security, economy and quality of life—and sooner than we think. That's the unmistakable message from scientists who have devoted their professional lives to understanding how human activities affect climate. One of them is Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, a climate research scientist at Texas Tech and a devout evangelical Christian.

She is co-author of a forthcoming report that will document the stunning effects climate change will have throughout the United States—such as the climate of my own state of Michigan becoming like what North Texas experiences today. I'm not kidding—look at the report, from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, when it comes out shortly...

⁺ Read the rest of Rob's essay at:
<http://www.rep.org/opinions/op-eds/124.html>

There are many theories as to why our nation's conservative party has fallen on hard times. Some blame the Bush presidency, others point to a lack of fiscal discipline, and yet others blame the party's stance on social issues. The problem is more fundamental, however.

Too many Republicans who proudly and loudly profess to be conservative have lost touch with what conservatism means.

Some have become so blinded by partisanship or pet issues that they have become more reactionary than thoughtful. Others seem to have taken the libertarian path and ended up in an almost liberal place—a mindset that champions freedom while ignoring responsibility.

This part of the Upstate is fortunate to be represented in Congress by Bob Inglis, a thoughtful conservative who fully understands traditional conservative principles and takes his stewardship obligation seriously.

Inglis has come under fire lately because he believes it is prudent to protect our atmosphere by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Those who criticize Inglis for that position might be surprised to learn that he is following the lead of another thoughtful conservative: Ronald Reagan.

Reagan, when faced with mounting scientific concern about ozone depletion, let neither the doomsday ranting of then-Congressman Al Gore nor the scoffing of his fellow Republicans influence his decision. Instead, Reagan listened carefully to the experts, weighed the facts, and took prudent action to safeguard our atmosphere.

Today the ozone layer is healing, not because of Al Gore's hype, but because of Ronald Reagan's leadership. It was Reagan, not Gore, who pushed through the treaty to begin phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals used in aerosol sprays and refrigeration equipment.

Reagan was no less of a conservative because he let facts trump polarizing rhetoric and chose to act in the best interest of our children and grandchildren. He was exactly the kind of thoughtful conservative that our party and our nation needs. So is Bob Inglis.

⁺⁺ Read Dave's and John's complete essay at:
<http://www.rep.org/opinions/op-eds/127.html>

Rob Sisson's first published op-ed since taking office as REP's president appeared May 20 in *Politico.com*, a must-read online news site covering national politics and issues. His "Time for the GOP to Become Green"^{*} urged Republicans to act like real conservatives, face facts about climate change, and take responsibility for helping to solve the problem.

California Congresswoman **Mary Bono Mack's** office called to say that she had read Rob's article and liked it. She posted it to one of her social media sites and quickly had 70 positive comments. They wanted to make sure we were aware of her work in other areas and that we would welcome her reaching out to us on future issues. (See *David Jenkins' Washington Report and the California Chapter report for more information about Mary Bono Mack.*)

David Jenkins offered a similar piece, "Climate Change Legislation: Beyond Party and Faction,"^{*} May 22 in *Grist*, an environmental news and commentary site. His July 9 op-ed, "Inglis Is Thoughtful Conservative that GOP Needs,"^{*} in the *Greenville News*, co-authored with South Carolina REP **John Wagner**, pointed to Congressman Bob Inglis as a model of true conservatism for his advocacy of legislation to put a price on carbon dioxide emissions. Congressman Inglis subsequently mailed the op-ed to his entire mailing list.

Also in South Carolina, State Coordinator **Chester Sansbury** published "Republicans Against Coal"^{*} in the May 19-25 edition of the *Free Times*.

REP Director **Bill McLaughlin** published "Absolutely Amazing Distortions Related to Global Warming"^{*} in the July 24 *Hawaii Reporter*.

REP has long had a knack for getting its message across through conventional media: newspapers, radio, and occasional magazine articles. We still rely on those, but over the past six months, we've expanded our reach to spread our intellectual DNA throughout the Internet via new media: web sites, blogs, and social networking sites. We have pages on *Facebook* and *LinkedIn*, and if you "follow" us on *Twitter*, the micro-blogging site, you'll get updates on our doings. Using both conventional and new media, REP stays busy spreading our green GOP philosophy and trademarked slogan: *Conservation is Conservative*.[®]

That message is more important now than ever. For the first time since REP's founding in 1995, Republicans are in the minority in both houses of Congress while a Democrat holds the presidency. If Republican candidates are to have any hope of returning to the good graces of the voters, one of the steps the party must take is to rediscover the traditional conservative principle of stewardship and reclaim the party's heritage as *the* party of conservation. REP's diverse communications make it clear that the GOP should offer *constructive* ideas for addressing climate and other environmental issues that concern Americans all across the political spectrum.

One of the new ways we're putting our message across is through regular posts to two blogs, *NewMajority.com* and *TheDailyGreen.com*.

REP Stickers

We have sharp new oval stickers featuring our Green Elephant logo, name, and web address.

They are free to members. Just mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope

—greeting card size, please!— to our new Sturgis, MI, headquarters.

(Address on the back cover.)

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

David Frum, a conservative who served in the G. W. Bush administration, founded *NewMajority.com* this year. It's a good fit for REP's message, so Dave and Jim post regularly. We also have a direct-click ad banner on the site, helping recruit new members.

Dave's recent contributions include: "God's Climate Plan"* and "Don't Know Much About Science Books."* (see excerpt below).

Writing as the "Green Conservative," Jim posts weekly on *TheDailyGreen.com*. His "Ten Environmental Issues Republicans Should Champion," lists environmental causes that Republicans should pick up and explains why they fit with traditional Republican concerns. "Honey, I Shrunk the Party" excoriates ideologues who believe that anyone who doesn't share their extreme views on the environment or other issues should leave the GOP—an exclusionary, arrogant attitude that hobbles the party's prospects for returning to the majority. (Find direct links to these and Jim's other posts at rep.org.)

In addition to blog postings, REP staffers send regular "backgrounders" to reporters and editors with our take on timely environmental and political issues. Those often prompt questions from journalists, resulting in quotations in articles, so more readers see REP's message.

REP's work on climate change legislation caught the eye of Rush Limbaugh, the leading light among *faux* conservative talk show entertainers. Limbaugh blasted REP as an "environmentalist wacko" group during his morning tirade on June 30. Our PAC had donated to several of the eight House Republicans prior to their votes for the American Clean Energy and Security Act, including Congressmen **Michael Castle** (DE), **Mark Kirk** (IL) and **Dave Reichert** (WA). That really got Rush's knickers into a knot, but we appreciated all the free publicity. *Thanks, Rush!*

In what Limbaugh lampoons as the MSM—"mainstream media"—recent news stories mentioning or quoting REP about prospects for a climate bill appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Kiplinger Newsletter*, *Arizona Republic*, *Wilmington News-Journal*, *Climate Wire*, *Philadelphia Bulletin*, McClatchy News Service, Hearst New Service.

The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* published an editorial backing REP's criticism of the Club for Growth and its exclusionary politics. Another *Star-Tribune* editorial mentioned our support for the Clean Water Restoration Act, which would clarify Clean Water Act authority over wetlands and undo muddled Supreme Court rulings that weakened wetlands protections.

Our 2008 *Congressional Scorecard* drew the notice of the *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, *Kennebec (ME) Journal*, and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, among others. The scorecard is a great tool for holding Republican lawmakers accountable for their environmental records and critical for spreading our message around the country.

On August 3, just as this issue was going to press, came word that two South Carolina REP members—State Coordinator **Chester Sansbury** and state **Senator John Courson**, were among a small group of environmental advocates who had met that morning with U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham to talk about climate change. The meeting went well, with Sen.

Graham providing a lot of useful information about the prospects for passage of the ACES bill in the Senate and how REP and other groups can help make it happen.



From left to right: **State Senator John Courson**, **Senator Lindsey Graham**, **Ann Timberlake** (Conservation Voters South Carolina), **Ben Gregg** (South Carolina Wildlife Federation), **Christie McGregor** (South Carolina Nature Conservancy), and **Chester Sansbury** (Republicans for Environmental Protection)

Texas Chapter

Texas will have a humdinger of a Republican gubernatorial primary next year. A bare-knuckles fight is shaping up between incumbent Rick Perry, who will be running for a third full term, and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. The Chapter plans to research the environmental records of the two candidates and inform conservation-minded Texans on where the candidates stand.

On March 28, Chapter President **Pam Ragon** spoke about conservatism and energy policy at the Re-Energize Texas summit, held at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin.

The Chapter sent copies of its legislative agenda to the offices of state senators and representatives, urging them to oppose a bill to divert sporting good sales tax revenues from state parks. Thanks in great part to their efforts with Republican legislators, the bill did not pass.

California Chapter

The Chapter will hold its annual meeting September 12 in the beautiful home of **Rita and Brys Myers**. Members will receive information.

Chapter President **Buddy Burke**, **Mike Savino** and **Candy Chand** attended state **Senator Tom Harman's** fun annual barbecue at his Sacramento home on June 10.

Buddy made the seven-hour trip (each way) from the Bay Area to Palm Springs on May 26 to present **Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack** a REP award for her environmental leadership in supporting the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. He also took the opportunity to thank her for courageously bucking congressional GOP leaders and voting for the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Buddy also staffed a REP table at the California Republican Party's spring convention, February 20-21 in Sacramento.

The Chapter is proud that one of its members, **Brad Torgan**, has been elected to the California Republican Party Central Committee.



Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack accepts a REP leadership award from Chapter President Buddy Burke.

New York Chapter

Early in April, Chapter President **Gregory Morris** addressed the monthly meeting of the Bronx County Conservative Party on the subject of “Environmental Protection and Economic Development.” (He notes that his carbon footprint was very small because he took public transportation from Manhattan to the Bronx and then walked to the meeting.)

The following is adapted from his subsequent report.

Since Bronx County suffers from overcrowding, poverty, and urban blight, the overwhelming priorities for the Bronx Conservative Party are economic development and jobs—which they say overshadow such “niceties” as environmental protection. There’s also a strong Libertarian bent. So Gregory had his work cut out for him.

He opened with our *Conservation is Conservative®* philosophy and immediately ran into resistance. When noting that REP’s objectives included clean air and water, one listener interjected, “*What do you consider clean water?*” That led to a discussion about onerous government regulation. Getting back on message, Morris replied that “clean water is what you would want your children to drink.”

The strong message from the Conservatives was that government is presumed to be intrusive and that if it exists at all it should be as small as possible. Gregory’s reply was that government exists to do the things we want but cannot do for ourselves. That is not just fire and police protection but protection of health and natural resources. He believes (as most REP members do) that it’s far better to have reasonable and workable protections enforced than have to deal with a deadly disease outbreak or a toxic disaster like Love Canal.

Gregory comments in his report: “*The evening was a sobering example of how far we still have to go in winning hearts and minds, but it was also encouraging in that some of the most hard-line reactionaries would listen to a well-reasoned argument.*”



Washington Chapter

The Chapter will hold its annual meeting September 19 in Vancouver. Members will be notified.

On March 27, the Chapter sent a letter to the Department of Energy about the slow pace of cleaning up waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including removal of radioactive and hazardous chemical waste from leak-prone single-shell tanks to double-shell tanks. The letter raised concerns about the risk of catastrophic waste discharge into the Columbia River. Copies were sent to the Washington State Department of Ecology, state legislators, and environmental organizations.

Chapter Secretary **Lloyd Flem** took part in the annual Environmental Lobby Day in Olympia, where Lloyd talked with GOP lawmakers about Hanford cleanup.

Florida Chapter

Chapter President **Melissa Iglesias** has stepped down from her position. Vice President **Dr. Jim Whitman** is serving as interim president.

New Mexico Chapter

President **Scott MacCurdy** and Vice President **Bill Wiley** have traded positions. Bill is now the chapter president.

Scott is highly engaged on the Board of Directors and chairs its Marketing and Communications Committee, which has been working closely with the REP staff to boost our social-networking activities.

Colorado Chapter

Chapter President **Dick Scar** has stepped down from his position. Replacing him is **Paul Steinhauer**, a long-time member who holds the rare distinction of having attended the first-ever REP gathering, in Illinois during the summer of 1996.

GOP Chair Denies Global Warming Christian Science Monitor, March 18, 2009

Filling in on a nationally syndicated radio program, Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele claimed that the planet is getting cooler and that Greenland was named so because it was covered with vegetation at the time. Neither assertion corresponds with scientific findings...

Mr. Steele who was filling in for conservative pundit Bill Bennett on Mr. Bennett's drive-time "Morning in America" call-in show on March 6, responded to a caller who mocked the concept of global warming...

"Thank you, thank you," he said. "We are cooling. We are not warming. The warming you see out there, the supposed warming, and I am using my finger quotation marks here, is part of the cooling process. Greenland, which is now covered in ice, it was once called Greenland for a reason, right? Iceland, which is now green. Oh I love this. Like we know what this planet is all about. How long have we been here? How long? Not very long."

Steele managed to pack many factual inaccuracies into this statement. The notion that the planet has entered a cooling phase is a common—but highly misleading—trope among climate change deniers, who often cite temperature readings that show that the hottest year on record was 1998, implying that the planet has been steadily cooling since then.

But it hasn't. According to Britain's Met Office, which has been recording temperature data since 1850, the next 10 warmest years after 1998 were, in order, 2005, 2003, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2001, 1997, 2008, and 1995.

One could argue that the earth has entered a cooling phase because each of the last three years have been successively colder. That would be a lot like declaring that the US economy has entered a recovery because the Dow is higher than it was last week.

And as for Steele's suggestion that Greenland was named so because it was covered in vegetation and not ice at the time, one could deploy the same logic to argue that the West Indies migrated halfway around the globe over the past five centuries. Alternatively, one could say it's just a name. The island was christened "Greenland" in the 10th century AD by Erik the Red, who picked the verdant moniker to attract settlers from Iceland. Mr. the Red wasn't trying to scam prospective Greenlanders: the southern portion of the island really did have green valleys, as it does today.

Samples of prehistoric DNA have revealed that the last time the entire Arctic island could rightly be described as "green" was between 450,000 and 800,000 years ago, well before the emergence of any Homo sapiens who could have appended a signifier to the island. The earliest fossils of anatomically modern humans are about 130,000 years old.

Steele's denial of scientific findings of manmade global warming is moderately representative of his party... Of course, not all Republicans are as dismissive of science as Steele. I emailed Jim DiPeso, Policy Director of Republicans for Environmental Protection. Here's what he had to say:

"Michael Steele has the potential to re-brand the Republican Party by helping it do a better job of reaching out to constituencies that the party has done a poor job of engaging. One thing that the party must do is make a convincing case that it is rediscovering the traditional conservative ethic of good stewardship of our natural heritage, including the atmosphere.

"Carbon dioxide has an effect on global temperatures. It is basic physics that has been well understood for a long time. To suggest otherwise is nonsense. The debate we should be having is not about the physics of global warming, but about the policy choices that we should make to reduce the risks associated with global warming.

"Michael's comment, unfortunately, sends a message that the party has no plans to change in the wake of two consecutive election debacles. I hope that is not Michael's intent. He should focus on reaching out to new constituencies, and leave climate science to the climatologists."

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WRITE TO



You go, Rob! Keep the heat on our confused or misguided GOP elected officials at all levels. You've got to be on the field to affect the game. *Tom Abbott; Wheat Ridge, Colorado*

When I am asked "Why are you a Republican?" I reply it is because they need me more than I need them, and so I stay to help the GOP. The party needs you and all the members of REP more than your members need the GOP. We will all keep trying. *Barb Maves; Muncie, Indiana*

I've been frustrated with the drift of the GOP on ecological issues. To be conservative is fundamentally to care about the environment. Conservative thinkers of the past—from Kirk to Tolkien and others—saw conservatism as "conserving" the "permanent things," whether these things are our nuclear families or a forest. There's nothing conservative about rapacious big business destroying the ecology. In fact, that's more an attitude that comes from "liberalism" as it has been understood in the past. The libertarian wing of the GOP scoffs at ecologically-sensitive notions—while more socially conservative individuals are moving back to being ecologically conservatives well. The irony is that technology has advanced to a point at which "sustainability" makes economic sense and is more profitable in the long run. Ecological issues have been defined as "progressive" because of the vacuum left by the GOP. If we REPs step back into the breach, we can seize the ecological high ground and bring it back into the conservative camp, where it belonged all along. *Damon Gardenhire; Norman, Oklahoma*

We worked for five years to craft the Eastern Sierra portion of the Public Lands Bill and are ecstatic over its passage in Congress. It was a blood-sweat-tears effort that turned into a true compromise. As a long-time Republican, and one of the original REP members since the mid-'90's, I can't tell you how happy I am to see public land conservation recognized for the inherent value it holds for all of us! California's "wild side" just became a little wilder, and that will sustain our spirits and nourish our national souls for generations. Thanks for your support.

Byng Hunt, Mono County Supervisor; Mammoth Lakes, California

Last night, we celebrated the Omnibus Public Lands Bill, which included Snake Scenic River and Wyoming Range designations. Thanks, Rob, for stepping up and taking on the leadership of REP. *Paul Vogelheim, Teton County Commissioner and WY REP coordinator; Jackson, Wyoming*

Outside of Republican Governors Linda Lingle, Charlie Crist, and Arnold Schwarzenegger, our party has turned into a joke. It ignores science and is unable to offer leadership. Please help us provide conservative values of national security and responsible economics to lead the world in environmental prosperity. *Dr. Thomas R. Howarth; Portsmouth, Rhode Island*

I changed my voter register from Republican to Independent 3 years ago solely based on my belief that the GOP had forsaken its conservation heritage. Now that I have found REP, I will change my voter registration back to "Rep." Thank you for creating this organization. I wish I had found it sooner. *Shawn Riggs; Pflugerville, Texas*

Thanks very much to Martha for her huge contribution to our country for taking the elephant by the horns and creating REP. *Dr. Thomas Dodson; Portland, Maine*

Martha has been such an inspiration all these years. Thanks for everything she has done—seen and unseen. *Dr. Lunell Haught; Spokane, Washington*

Though I have never met Martha, I feel as though I know her. She's done a fabulous job. I send Rob my best wishes, too. *Marian "Bobs" McAleenan; Rockport, Maine*

Martha has created quite a legacy. I'm proud to know her. *Dr. Andrew Sansom; Austin, Texas*

I will watch with interest what happens over the next year or so. If ever REP is needed, it is now. REP needs to be at the table, in the debate. Don't worry about Congress. The Democrats will be better on environmental issues than the Republicans. But worry like hell about the future of the Grand Old Party. If Sarah Palin is the new face of Republicanism, I'm checking out.

Nicholas G. Penniman IV; Naples, Florida

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REP's Mission

Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP America) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization established in 1995 to resurrect the GOP's great conservation tradition and to restore natural resource conservation and sound environmental protection as fundamental elements of the Republican Party's vision for America.

National Office

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