

Business Leaders make Economic case for Protecting Greenhouse Gas Rules

E2 delegates in D.C., urge elected officials to get serious about national energy policy

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(Washington, D.C.) A high-level delegation from Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), a network of over 850 business leaders, met this week with members of Congress and representatives of the Obama Administration to make the economic case that urgent action is needed to transition the United States toward a clean energy economy, including protecting the EPA's authority to reduce greenhouse gases.

"The EPA, via the time-tested and widely beneficial Clean Air Act — as passed and amended by Congress, signed by Republican presidents and interpreted by the Supreme Court — is well positioned to jump-start our transition to a clean energy economy and bolster American innovation in a \$243 billion global clean energy market," said Nicole Lederer, co-founder of E2, a national community of business leaders who advocate for good environmental policy while building economic prosperity.

Three of these high-level delegates are CEOs and Presidents of growing businesses with facilities located or soon to be located in states where Senators led recent efforts in Congress to remove EPA's authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

The Obama Administration and Senate Democrats managed to keep the clean air rules off the chopping block, but EPA critics in Congress are gearing up for anti-EPA riders to legislation that would raise the debt ceiling and in negotiations over fiscal 2012 appropriations bills.

While in Washington, E2's business leaders made it clear to elected officials that they should reject continued efforts to rescind the EPA's authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and told lawmakers they need to get serious about our energy future.

"As my company works with grid operators outside of the US, I've seen first-hand how the lack of a policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is leaving the country at a competitive disadvantage in the fast growing global clean energy market," said Bill Capp, President and CEO of Beacon Power Corporation.

Beacon Power Corporation has developed a unique and innovative energy storage system used by grid operators to balance the variation of load and renewable energy.

“Greenhouse gas reduction policies will create new industries and provide the job growth essential to our future,” he added.

Beacon Power and its key suppliers have facilities in over eight states, including a new project in Montana and employ 319 full time employees.

“A growing number of participants in the lodging industry are taking a larger, more supportive view of energy policies and clean air regulations that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and stimulate job creation,” said David Moyer, President and CEO of MEI Hotels Incorporated.

MEI is a family-owned hotel development, ownership and management company headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. It currently owns and manages four Hilton franchised hotels in Troy, Michigan; Fairfax, Virginia; and Boca Raton and Miramar, Florida.

Jack Oswald, CEO of SynGest Inc., produces a new renewable carbon-free nitrogen fertilizer. Syngest is based in San Francisco and will soon be breaking ground on its first commercial scale facility near Des Moines, Iowa. The facility will process 130,000 tons of biomass annually and will produce enough carbon-free fertilizer for 500,000 acres. The new facility will create more than 100 jobs in the local community.

SynGest is planning for expansion in over 10 other states, including Ohio, Michigan, Arkansas, Indiana and Missouri.

“We must create a strong domestic market for clean energy technology. If we don’t, we will lose the international clean energy race,” added Lederer. “To build a strong domestic market, we need to do what our global competitors are doing: control carbon emissions.”

About E2

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national community of individual business leaders who advocate for good environmental policy while building economic prosperity. E2 takes a reasoned, economically sound approach to environmental issues by relying on fact-based policy expertise. For more information: <http://www.e2.org>

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