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Climate Change Legislation Moves Forward, But Fate of Energy Block Grant Uncertain

Call Senators to Urge Inclusion of EECBG

By Judy Sheahan

The latest Climate Change/Energy legislation that was crafted in a tri-partisan effort was supposed to be unveiled at an April 26 press conference. Instead, the bill, which was written by Senators John Kerry

(MA), Joe Lieberman (CT), and Lindsey Graham (SC), faced an uncertain future when Graham threatened to abandon negotiations after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) announced that the issue of Immigration Reform would come before the Climate Change/Energy bill on the Senate schedule.

After days of negotiations, Reid announced that the Climate/Energy Bill would come before the Immigration bill and the key points of the legislation were sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an economic analysis, which is consid-

ered a precursor to a floor debate. It is estimated that EPA will take six to eight weeks to complete its analysis.

What is unclear is whether the Conference of Mayors' top priority - funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) - was included in the bill. Funding for EECBG was included in the Kerry-Boxer climate legislation entitled the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733) that was introduced in September of 2009. However, Republicans from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee boycotted

the markup of that bill over issues regarding EPA analysis, as well as other concerns. And although it passed out of committee, that bill is no longer being considered.

The Kerry-Graham-Lieberman legislation has only been seen by a small number of organizations that mainly consisted of utility groups and other companies that would be impacted by the legislation. Supposedly, the bill would require a 17 percent reduction in U.S. emissions by 2020, from 2005 levels. It is also supposed to deal

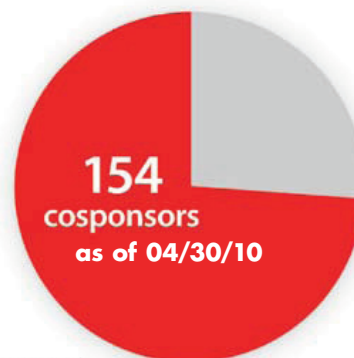
See EECBG on page 10

New York City Mayor Bloomberg Hosts Mayors' Institute on City Design



See Story on Page 6.

Support Increases for Local Jobs for America Act (H.R. 4812)



216 Votes needed for Passage

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Schenectady Mayor Stratton Addresses World's Largest Gathering of PVC Pipe Manufacturers

By Rich Anderson

Schenectady (NY) Mayor Brian U. Stratton addressed participants of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association in Florida on April 20. The event marks the World's largest gathering of PVC pipe manufacturers. PVC pipe (poly vinyl chloride) is rapidly becoming the preferred material for municipal water transmission and wastewater collection in public systems across the nation. Stratton, speaking on behalf of the Mayors Water Council of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, talked about the challenges facing America's principal cities in providing safe, affordable and adequate water and wastewater services and infrastructure for sustainable cities in the 21st Century.

Citing a 2010 report published by the Conference of Mayors, Stratton presented information about the huge looming cost to local government over the 20-year period 2009 to 2028 on public water and wastewater systems. He said that forecasts of spending on operation and maintenance, and capital investment ranged between \$3 to \$5 trillion. A significant portion of the capital investment, he said, will be devoted

to the underground infrastructure (the pipes).

Stratton also presented information gathered by the Conference of Mayors National City Survey conducted in 2007. Pipe corrosion is the major reason for pipe breaks. Based on this information, it has become clear that pipe rehabilitation and replacement may dominate capital investments in public systems for some time into the future. EPA has suggested that almost a quarter of a million pipe breaks in municipal systems occur each year. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that as much as 1.7 billion gallons of water is lost from these pipe breaks each year, at a cost of \$2.6 billion. Stratton stated that every city has a vested interest in correcting this situation. He also stated that the costs are daunting, so that anyone who has a cost-efficient solution needs to step-up with the evidence if they are going to be successful in helping cities.

Stratton commented on the importance of the planning process conducted by local government in regard to water infrastructure. He stated that city officials must exercise "due diligence" in choosing how to spend public money (whether tax payer or rate payer money). The traditional

habit of using one or two pipe materials exclusively is no longer satisfactory. Local officials need to compare all proven pipe materials on a life cycle basis before choosing the best pipe for the city. "Mayors could be open to public-private partnerships as one way to meet the expected huge cost of replacing underground water and wastewater infrastructure, especially if those partnerships are proven and demonstrated to offer cost-effective solutions," stated Stratton.

"The biggest challenges facing North American pipe manufacturers are to provide products that are sustainable both environmentally and economically. PVC pipe does both, providing a truly resilient, high quality option," responded Bruce Hollands, Executive Director of Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association, (a Dallas-based nonprofit association). Hollands also stated, "The biggest problem in water infrastructure is the corrosion epidemic. Corrosion-prone piping materials cost U.S. drinking water and sewer systems some \$50.7 billion a year." With municipalities facing serious financial challenges, Stratton's call for cost-efficient solutions in water and wastewater infrastructure is key to maintaining our quality of life. "In contrast to old-technology materials,



Schenectady (NY) Mayor Brian U. Stratton

less energy and fewer resources are needed to manufacture PVC pipe, its competitive price and durability are taxpayer friendly, and it doesn't deteriorate due to corrosion, producing significant savings over the life cycle of a pipe network. For sustainability, long-term performance is critical," added Hollands.

Stratton concluded his remarks with an invitation to the Mayors Water Council Regional Meeting to be held May 12-13 in Schenectady.



The U.S. Conference of Mayors Mayors Water Council Regional Meeting Schenectady (NY)



May 12-13 at the Hampton Inn

"The Water/Energy Nexus"

Schenectady (NY) Mayor Brian U. Stratton and Pleasanton (CA) Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Mayors Water Council Co-Chairs cordially invite you to join the Mayors Water Council discussions on:

- Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources
- Renewable Energy and Water Management
- Water Conservation and Leaky Pipes
- Water Infrastructure Financing
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Policy Briefing on Water Legislation and Regulation

Agenda and Registration Materials are posted online at <http://usmayors.org/urbanwater>