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Cc: Seabrook Jonathan CHBS
Subject: RE: Atrazine news - Sept. 30, 2010

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Lucas, Inhofe say environmental regulations threaten jobs, rural America

The Daily Oklahoman

30 September 2010

By Chris Casteel, The Oklahoman, Oklahoma City

Oklahomans on both sides of the U.S. Capitol attacked the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, saying proposed regulations would kill jobs.

Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne, the top Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, led a discussion on how EPA proposals would hurt agriculture and rural areas. And Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa, said proposed EPA regulations threaten a number of U.S. industries.

At a forum sponsored by the House Rural America Solutions Group, Lucas, one of the leaders of the group, said the EPA's "in-your-face approach to more government regulation has increased the cost of doing business for America's farmers and ranchers."

"If EPA is allowed to continue down this path," he said, "the only choice for many farmers and ranchers will be to stop farming altogether."

The group heard from representatives of farmer, rancher, water and energy organizations who expressed concerns about regulations on pesticides, herbicides, dust, ozone levels, hydraulic fracturing and other matters.

Tamara Thies, chief environmental counsel for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said the EPA was moving toward the toughest regulation on dust in U.S. history.

"Incredibly, we are talking about dust kicked up by tilling fields and harvesting crops, cattle movements and pickups driving down dirt roads. For agriculture, the current standard is already very difficult and costly to meet; doubling it would be virtually impossible."

Lucas said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson declined an invitation to speak at the forum.

Inhofe, the top Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, released a report this week estimating nearly 800,000 jobs could be lost because of the EPA's proposed new emission standards for industrial boilers used in manufacturing and commercial boilers used by a range of businesses, including restaurants and hotels.

Several Senate Democrats have joined Republicans against the rule.

Inhofe, who attended the rural solutions forum, said the EPA is unnecessarily re-evaluating an ozone rule. More than a dozen Oklahoma counties could be out of compliance if the ozone standard is too stringent, he said.

Luetkemeyer, Missourians in Congress battling with EPA

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Luetkemeyer isn't alone.

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Meanwhile, Rep. **Jo Ann Emerson**, R-Cape Girardeau, has been complaining, among other things, about EPA consideration of a ban on lead fishing sinkers.

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Taken together, Missourians in Congress have been one of the most anti-EPA delegations from any state. And Luetkemeyer, though still in his first term, has emerged as one of the most persistent critics in the House.

In an interview, Luetkemeyer said he is motivated because Missouri's economy is heavily dependant on agriculture. His district alone has 22,000 farms he said.

He argued this week against potential EPA expansion of the **Clean Water Act** and new curbs on atrazine, farm dust and drifting pesticides from chemical spraying.

"Agriculture is what underpins the local business community. If you destroy the farming community, you have destroyed rural Missouri," he said.

The EPA began considering new restrictions on atrazine after studies associated the weedkiller with birth defects from tainted drinking water. The **University of Missouri** reported last spring that atrazine was causing harm to aquatic life -- but not humans -- in the **Goodwater Creek** watershed in Luetkemeyer's district.

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"On that committee alone, we can force them to come out and defend what they're doing and see if it's just the whims of this administration trying to see if they can push people out of business," he said.

NSP speaks out against overregulation

Penton Insight

30 September 2010

The Rural America Solutions Group held a forum recently in Washington, D.C., to discuss a range of Environmental Protection Agency proposals and related legislation. Panelists commented on how these EPA regulations are affecting the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and small businesses throughout rural America.

Gerald Simonsen, National Sorghum Producers board chairman and sorghum farmer from Ruskin, Neb., expressed concern over many areas of overreaching EPA regulation. He emphasized that although science-based regulation is important, Washington today has little regard for farmers, the best stewards of the land, and is causing economic pain to America's heartland.

"In less than two years, Washington regulators at the EPA and other agencies have opened up, sped up, or tightened up regulatory reviews and restrictions, concerning everything from Clean Water Act requirements for pesticide applications, to greenhouse gases, to plain old dust on America's farms," said Simonsen.

EPA's impact on rural America was described by Simonsen as burdensome red tape that specifically includes an absurd decision to institute an irregular and unprecedented re-review of atrazine this year despite overwhelming weight of scientific opinion testifying to its safety.

"The treatment of atrazine is the most bizarre move of them all," Simonsen said, "one that seems to have little to do with science, and a lot to do with activist politics."

Additionally, anti-pesticide litigation is pushing EPA to consider zero-drift policies, to which Simonsen expressed simply cannot be done.

"Speaking for the farmer, I can tell you that this opens the door to frivolous lawsuits and enforcement actions against farmers and other applicators," said Simonsen. "And, the catch is, it results in little or no measurable environmental benefit."

KLA: NCBA Delivers Harsh Criticism Of EPA Regulations On Animal Agriculture

CattleNetwork.com

30 September 2010

Speaking before a forum hosted yesterday by the Rural America Solutions Group, NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is "waging an unprecedented war" to end animal agriculture production. She cited new and burdensome EPA regulations on air and water quality that could cause some cattle operations to go out of business.

"EPA exhibits reckless indifference to scientific fact and, instead, imposes stringent regulations based on nothing more than its biased anti-animal agriculture agenda," she told those gathered for the forum.

Thies used the example of EPA's draft policy assessment on particulate matter (dust), released in June. It calls for dust regulations twice as stringent as the current standard. She said based on dust levels set in the regulations, farmers and ranchers would be out of compliance when tilling fields, harvesting crops, moving cattle and driving a pick-up down a dirt road. According to Thies, the current standard already is difficult and costly to meet. Doubling it will make compliance virtually impossible.

The forum, titled "The EPA's Assault on Rural America: How New Regulations and Proposed Legislation are Stifling Job Creation and Economic Growth," was hosted by U.S. Reps. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, Sam Graves of Missouri and Doc

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Hastings of Washington. Thies suggested the punitive actions of EPA against agriculture could backfire on the administration by driving U.S. ranchers out of business and decreasing the availability of U.S. beef.

"It is ironic that as we work to become less dependent on foreign oil, Obama policies are likely to make us more dependent on foreign beef," she said.

For more information visit www.kla.org.

NCBA Defends Cattle Ranchers During Forum On EPA Regulations

CattleNetwork.com

29 September 2010

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies spoke on behalf of U.S. cattlemen and women today, Wed., Sept. 29, 2010, at a forum in Washington, D.C., focused on the impact of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on job creation and economic expansion in America's rural communities. Thies told members of Congress in attendance that the "EPA is waging an unprecedented war" to end animal agriculture production.

"EPA exhibits reckless indifference to scientific fact and, instead, imposes stringent regulations based on nothing more than its biased anti-animal agriculture agenda that will leave many cattle operations with no recourse but to shut down and eliminate jobs," said Thies. "It is ironic that as we work to become less dependent on foreign oil, Obama policies are likely to make us more dependent on foreign beef. Maybe we'll need to start a strategic hamburger reserve after the Obama Administration is finished with us."

The forum, entitled "The EPA's Assault on Rural America: How New Regulations and Proposed Legislation are Stifling Job Creation and Economic Growth," was hosted by U.S. Representatives Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), Sam Graves (R-Mo.), and Doc Hastings (R-Wash.), co-chairs of the Rural America Solutions Group. Thies discussed several examples of EPA regulations that could potentially stifle the U.S. cattle industry. She said the EPA has laid the foundation to impose the "most stringent regulation of dust in U.S. history." Thies was referring to EPA's draft policy assessment on particulate matter (dust) released in June, which calls for regulations twice as stringent as the current standard.

"Incredibly, we are talking about dust kicked up by tilling fields and harvesting crops, cattle movements, and pickups driving down dirt roads. For agriculture, the current standard is already very difficult and costly to meet – doubling it would be virtually impossible," said Thies.

She said the EPA is also "bound and determined" to regulate ammonia without legal authority. The Clean Air Act sets forth strict procedures for regulating pollutants. Instead of complying with those procedures, the EPA is attempting to circumvent them, she said. Eliminating the phosphorous index was also an issue of concern. The phosphorus index is a tool used by cattle producers to assess the appropriateness of applying manure to land near our waters. The phosphorus index is different in every state and appropriately takes into account differences in climate, topography, soil type, soil test, water sensitivities, among other factors.

"In typical Obama fashion, the unique considerations of states would be done away with as EPA develops a national tool that would largely be based on a soil test for phosphorus to determine the upper limit. Such an approach is entirely inappropriate, is not based on science, and is likely to result in the inability of cattle producers to land apply their manure in many areas of the country," she said. "Depending on the outcome, this regulation may be one of the most economically devastating to animal agriculture."

Source: National Cattlemen's Beef Association

EPA; Republicans blitz Obama over 'anti-industrial' regulations

Greenwire

28 September 2010

Robin Bravender and Gabriel Nelson, E&E reporters

With the November midterm election nearing, Republicans in Congress are focusing their fire on U.S. EPA, describing the agency's regulations on greenhouse gases and air pollution as the product of a "job-killing" Obama administration.

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To: Adam D'Luzansky <adluzansky@whwg.com>; Adelman Jessica USWS; Alventosa Vince USGR; Barlow Todd USGR; Breckenridge Charles USGR; Bryan Ann USGR; Caddell Ralph USSG; Campbell Dan USGR; Carroll Beth USGR; Chris Robling <crobbling@jaynethompson.com>; David Bartlett (dbartlett@levick.com) <dbartlett@levick.com>; Day Lloyd USWS; Dickinson Travis USGR; Drake Dora (ext) USGR; Eileen Doherty <edoherty@whwg.com>; Farmer Danelle USGR; Flakne Dave USGR; Ford Sherry USGR; Gelly David USUW; Goldsmith Steven USGR; Hendley Paul USGR; Hertl Peter USGR; Hill Gene (ext) USGR; Hosmer Alan USGR; J Stadd <jstadd@levick.com>; Jackson Tommy USDM; Jayne Thompson <jthompson@jaynethompson.com>; Jere White <jwhite@ksgrains.com>; Joseph Robert USGR; Josh Gilder

Inhofe, who attended the rural solutions forum, said the EPA is unnecessarily re-evaluating an ozone rule. More than a dozen Oklahoma counties could be out of compliance if the ozone standard is too stringent, he said.

Luetkemeyer, Missourians in Congress battling with EPA

St. Louis Today

30 September 2010

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Following a congressional forum yesterday on perceived EPA threats, Rep. **Blaine Luetkemeyer**, R-St. Elizabeth, referred to recent EPA proposals as an "ongoing assault on rural America...from mud puddles to dust."

Luetkemeyer isn't alone.

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He was blocked by in that effort by Sen. **Dick Durbin**, D-Ill.

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And Sen. **Claire McCaskill** is a leader in the congressional drive that has succeeded thus far in preventing tougher smog rules from the nation's anti-pollution agency.

Taken together, Missourians in Congress have been one of the most anti-EPA delegations from any state. And Luetkemeyer, though still in his first term, has emerged as one of the most persistent critics in the House.

In an interview, Luetkemeyer said he is motivated because Missouri's economy is heavily dependant on agriculture. His district alone has 22,000 farms he said.

He argued this week against potential EPA expansion of the **Clean Water Act** and new curbs on atrazine, farm dust and drifting pesticides from chemical spraying.

"Agriculture is what underpins the local business community. If you destroy the farming community, you have destroyed rural Missouri," he said.

The EPA began considering new restrictions on atrazine after studies associated the weedkiller with birth defects from tainted drinking water. The **University of Missouri** reported last spring that atrazine was causing harm to aquatic life -- but not humans -- in the **Goodwater Creek** watershed in Luetkemeyer's district.

Luetkemeyer said the aim should be minimizing atrazine pollution rather than restricting the herbicide, which he said would be costly to farmers.

If Republicans recapture control of the House in November -- a strong possibility -- Luetkemeyer said he and others would have a stronger hand in "reining in those folks in EPA."

Luetkemeyer has been in the forefront of trying to strip U.S. funding from the UN-sponsored **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** -- the collection of scientists that has issued dire warnings about the effects of human-caused global warming.

From: Mack Mike CHBS
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 2:26 PM
To: Hull Sarah CHBS; Atkin John CHBS; Aruffo Sandro CHBS
Cc: Seabrook Jonathan CHBS
Subject: RE: Atrazine news - Sept. 30, 2010

Indeed, I have been noticing in the press clippings what is turning into a virtual "open hunting" season on the EPA, a good thing from our point of view. Still less clear is the upshot of it and whether the Steve Owens' of the world are feeling the political pressure or merely noting it. In any case, it feels like a good turn of events, and frankly an amazing 2 years, how the president could have misjudged so much, so large.

Well done to our team and their networks for helping to catalyze it all. Regards, Mike

From: Hull Sarah CHBS
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 9:42 AM
To: Mack Mike CHBS; Atkin John CHBS; Aruffo Sandro CHBS
Cc: Seabrook Jonathan CHBS
Subject: FW: Atrazine news - Sept. 30, 2010

There's been significant momentum building on the Hill recently about EPA's anti-agriculture actions. This is becoming broader than atrazine which is helpful in getting more interests understanding and advocating our point of view. The focused and persistent work of the team deserves a lot of credit for getting this rolling.

Sarah

From: Adelman Jessica USWS
Sent: Donnerstag, 30. September 2010 23:34
To: Mitchell Katelyn (ext) USGR; Day Lloyd USWS; Bryan Ann USGR; Kelly Angus USWS; Ford Sherry USGR; Minehart Paul USWS; 'jgilder@whwg.com'; Kuhn Eric USGR
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"On that committee alone, we can force them to come out and defend what they're doing and see if it's just the whims of this administration trying to see if they can push people out of business," he said.

NSP speaks out against overregulation

Penton Insight

30 September 2010

The Rural America Solutions Group held a forum recently in Washington, D.C., to discuss a range of Environmental Protection Agency proposals and related legislation. Panelists commented on how these EPA regulations are affecting the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and small businesses throughout rural America.

Gerald Simonsen, National Sorghum Producers board chairman and sorghum farmer from Ruskin, Neb., expressed concern over many areas of overreaching EPA regulation. He emphasized that although science-based regulation is important, Washington today has little regard for farmers, the best stewards of the land, and is causing economic pain to America's heartland.

"In less than two years, Washington regulators at the EPA and other agencies have opened up, sped up, or tightened up regulatory reviews and restrictions, concerning everything from Clean Water Act requirements for pesticide applications, to greenhouse gases, to plain old dust on America's farms," said Simonsen.

EPA's impact on rural America was described by Simonsen as burdensome red tape that specifically includes an absurd decision to institute an irregular and unprecedented re-review of atrazine this year despite overwhelming weight of scientific opinion testifying to its safety.

"The treatment of atrazine is the most bizarre move of them all," Simonsen said, "one that seems to have little to do with science, and a lot to do with activist politics."

Additionally, anti-pesticide litigation is pushing EPA to consider zero-drift policies, to which Simonsen expressed simply cannot be done.

"Speaking for the farmer, I can tell you that this opens the door to frivolous lawsuits and enforcement actions against farmers and other applicators," said Simonsen. "And, the catch is, it results in little or no measurable environmental benefit."

KLA: NCBA Delivers Harsh Criticism Of EPA Regulations On Animal Agriculture

CattleNetwork.com

30 September 2010

Speaking before a forum hosted yesterday by the Rural America Solutions Group, NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is "waging an unprecedented war" to end animal agriculture production. She cited new and burdensome EPA regulations on air and water quality that could cause some cattle operations to go out of business.

"EPA exhibits reckless indifference to scientific fact and, instead, imposes stringent regulations based on nothing more than its biased anti-animal agriculture agenda," she told those gathered for the forum.

Thies used the example of EPA's draft policy assessment on particulate matter (dust), released in June. It calls for dust regulations twice as stringent as the current standard. She said based on dust levels set in the regulations, farmers and ranchers would be out of compliance when tilling fields, harvesting crops, moving cattle and driving a pick-up down a dirt road. According to Thies, the current standard already is difficult and costly to meet. Doubling it will make compliance virtually impossible.

The forum, titled "The EPA's Assault on Rural America: How New Regulations and Proposed Legislation are Stifling Job Creation and Economic Growth," was hosted by U.S. Reps. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, Sam Graves of Missouri and Doc

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Hastings of Washington. Thies suggested the punitive actions of EPA against agriculture could backfire on the administration by driving U.S. ranchers out of business and decreasing the availability of U.S. beef.

"It is ironic that as we work to become less dependent on foreign oil, Obama policies are likely to make us more dependent on foreign beef," she said.

For more information visit www.kla.org.

NCBA Defends Cattle Ranchers During Forum On EPA Regulations

CattleNetwork.com

29 September 2010

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies spoke on behalf of U.S. cattlemen and women today, Wed., Sept. 29, 2010, at a forum in Washington, D.C., focused on the impact of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on job creation and economic expansion in America's rural communities. Thies told members of Congress in attendance that the "EPA is waging an unprecedented war" to end animal agriculture production.

"EPA exhibits reckless indifference to scientific fact and, instead, imposes stringent regulations based on nothing more than its biased anti-animal agriculture agenda that will leave many cattle operations with no recourse but to shut down and eliminate jobs," said Thies. "It is ironic that as we work to become less dependent on foreign oil, Obama policies are likely to make us more dependent on foreign beef. Maybe we'll need to start a strategic hamburger reserve after the Obama Administration is finished with us."

The forum, entitled "The EPA's Assault on Rural America: How New Regulations and Proposed Legislation are Stifling Job Creation and Economic Growth," was hosted by U.S. Representatives Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), Sam Graves (R-Mo.), and Doc Hastings (R-Wash.), co-chairs of the Rural America Solutions Group. Thies discussed several examples of EPA regulations that could potentially stifle the U.S. cattle industry. She said the EPA has laid the foundation to impose the "most stringent regulation of dust in U.S. history." Thies was referring to EPA's draft policy assessment on particulate matter (dust) released in June, which calls for regulations twice as stringent as the current standard.

"Incredibly, we are talking about dust kicked up by tilling fields and harvesting crops, cattle movements, and pickups driving down dirt roads. For agriculture, the current standard is already very difficult and costly to meet – doubling it would be virtually impossible," said Thies.

She said the EPA is also "bound and determined" to regulate ammonia without legal authority. The Clean Air Act sets forth strict procedures for regulating pollutants. Instead of complying with those procedures, the EPA is attempting to circumvent them, she said. Eliminating the phosphorous index was also an issue of concern. The phosphorus index is a tool used by cattle producers to assess the appropriateness of applying manure to land near our waters. The phosphorus index is different in every state and appropriately takes into account differences in climate, topography, soil type, soil test, water sensitivities, among other factors.

"In typical Obama fashion, the unique considerations of states would be done away with as EPA develops a national tool that would largely be based on a soil test for phosphorus to determine the upper limit. Such an approach is entirely inappropriate, is not based on science, and is likely to result in the inability of cattle producers to land apply their manure in many areas of the country," she said. "Depending on the outcome, this regulation may be one of the most economically devastating to animal agriculture."

Source: National Cattlemen's Beef Association

EPA; Republicans blitz Obama over 'anti-industrial' regulations

Greenwire

28 September 2010

Robin Bravender and Gabriel Nelson, E&E reporters

With the November midterm election nearing, Republicans in Congress are focusing their fire on U.S. EPA, describing the agency's regulations on greenhouse gases and air pollution as the product of a "job-killing" Obama administration.

Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, the top Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, has put together a laundry list of grievances about the agency's regulatory agenda. His report, which will be released this afternoon, is the latest in a series of screeds from Inhofe, who previously investigated the "Climategate" controversy and issued a report accusing the Obama administration of bungling its response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

"Unfortunately, the Obama EPA favors bureaucracy and heavy-handed intervention more than jobs and growth," says a draft of the new report that was reviewed by Greenwire. "In many cases, outmoded provisions of the [Clean Air Act] are no longer tools to achieve clean air, but blunt instruments for EPA to enact anti-industrial policies."

The report tallies potential job losses and economic impacts from the agency's new greenhouse gas regulations, emissions standards for cement plants, proposed emissions rules for industrial boilers and the proposed tightening of the ozone standard.

Inhofe struck a populist tone this morning while previewing the report in an interview with conservative talk show host Ed Morrissey.

"All this silly stuff that they're doing over at the EPA costs money," Inhofe said, "and it disadvantages the poor more than anybody else."

In at least one regard, the Obama EPA has been less bureaucratic than its predecessor, an agency spokesman said in a statement.

During the first year of Obama's presidency, EPA proposed or finalized about 80 rules. That rate, which has continued in 2010, is lower than the average of 130 regulatory changes per year over the last four years of the George W. Bush administration.

EPA has not yet received Inhofe's report, the spokesman said, "but the doomsday predictions we hear now are the same sort we have heard every time EPA has taken any step to implement the laws that Congress wrote to protect Americans from pollution in the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Inhofe is not the only congressional Republican attacking the Obama administration's environmental policies in the run-up to the November election.

Senate Democrats last night fended off efforts from retiring Sen. Kit Bond (R-Mo.) to bring up for a vote a bill from West Virginia Democrat Jay Rockefeller that would prevent EPA from regulating greenhouse gases from stationary sources for two years. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) objected to Bond's request for unanimous consent to begin debate on it (E&E Daily, Sept. 28).

"It's disappointing that Democrats again blocked bipartisan action to protect the American people from the backdoor national energy tax coming in the form of new job-killing carbon regulations from EPA," Bond said in a statement.

The Missouri Republican said he wanted the measure to be considered before the chamber is expected to recess later this week until after the November elections. He and other opponents of EPA climate rules have vowed to use all available legislative vehicles to block or delay EPA climate regulations, which are slated to kick in on Jan. 2, 2011.

The co-chairs of the House Rural America Solutions Group are planning a forum tomorrow titled "The EPA's assault on rural America: How new regulations and proposed legislation are stifling job creation and economic growth." The panel discussion, led by the ranking members of the House Agriculture, Small Business and Natural Resources committees will discuss how a range of agency rules affect rural communities.

EPA backers gird for battle

Supporters of the Obama administration's climate rules, meanwhile, are preparing to defend EPA's authority to regulate heat-trapping emissions under the Clean Air Act.

In a letter sent today to White House officials and members of Congress, a coalition of national and state health groups urged lawmakers to oppose efforts to thwart EPA climate regulations. The letter was signed by groups including the American Medical Association, the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, and dozens of other groups and health professionals.

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting the public's health from climate change, and we urge you to fully support the EPA in fulfilling its responsibilities," the groups wrote. "We also urge opposition to any efforts to weaken, delay or block the EPA from protecting the public's health from these risks."

Retired military leaders and veterans are also lobbying lawmakers this week to oppose efforts to stymie EPA climate rules, arguing that inaction on climate change poses a serious risk to national security. Veterans organized by Operation Free -- a coalition of veterans and national security organizations that advocate clean energy -- are urging senators from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota to oppose congressional efforts to block EPA regulations.

"Veterans like me are furious at the U.S. Senate's attempt to hamstring the Environmental Protection Agency and ignore the advice of our military and security leaders," said Jonathan Powers, an Iraq war veteran and former U.S. Army captain who is now chief operating officer of the Truman National Security Project. "This isn't a political issue; this is a question of American security."

[Click here to read the health groups' letter.](#)

Story updated at 4:20 p.m. EST to include EPA's response.

Luetkemeyer Highlights Concerns of EPA's Ongoing Assault on Rural America

Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer
29 September 2010

U.S. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-9) and members of the Rural America Solutions Group today participated in a forum that focused on the destructive job-killing policies of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Democratic leadership in Congress.

The EPA's Assault on Rural America: How New Regulations and Proposed Legislation are Stifling Job Creation and Economic Growth forum was sponsored by the Rural America Solutions Group. Luetkemeyer and his colleagues heard from rural Americans who provided real-life examples of how the actions of the EPA are costing jobs, hindering economic recovery and harming rural livelihoods.

"The EPA appears bent on destroying rural America by regulating private lands and water. The EPA and Majority party's attempt to regulate everything from mud-puddles to dust is a massive power grab that threatens the livelihoods of our family farmers, small businesses and rural communities," Luetkemeyer said. "The EPA and Majority party should take the time to speak to the folks in rural America and address the inconsistencies between their support for disastrous cap-and-tax legislation and increased regulations, and the stated goal of job creation and economic growth."

Missouri's 9th District has more than 22,000 farms, covering more than 6.4 million acres of land. Agriculture is a bull's-eye industry for an energy tax because it is energy-intensive. Whether it's the fuel in the tractor, the fertilizer for the crops, or the delivery of food to the grocery store, agriculture uses a great deal of energy throughout production. An analysis by the Missouri Public Utility Alliance estimates that the House-passed cap-and-tax plan for carbon emissions could increase the average electric rate in Missouri by 10 percent in 2015 compared to 2005. In 2020, the increase could be 17 percent and by 2030, rates could be 82 percent higher. This backdoor energy tax will kill jobs, hinder economic growth, and increase the cost of energy, food and transportation.

Beyond the cap-and-tax plan, the Obama Administration and Majority party in Congress have proposed numerous job-killing regulations targeting rural America:

- Expanding the scope of the Clean Water Act to bring every body of water - from irrigation canals to seasonal mud-puddles - under the unlimited jurisdiction of the EPA.
- The EPA's new spray drift policy is a major shift from the decades-old acknowledgement that small levels of pesticide spray drift is unavoidable. The unachievable standard will result in frivolous lawsuits and loss of jobs.
- EPA issued a draft policy doubling the stringency of the standard by which farm dust is regulated. Farming activities that kick up dust like tilling a field, operating a feedlot, even driving farm vehicles on dirt roads would fall under this new policy that will hinder farmers' ability to maintain production and could bring economic growth to a standstill in the agricultural sector.

- Banning the use of Atrazine, the second most used pesticide, which could result in the loss of 21,000 to 48,000 agriculture related jobs.
- Regulating hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. Hydraulic fracturing is a safe, well-regulated technology that enables the production of unconventional natural gas resources – such as shale gas. Imposing new, bureaucratic regulations and red-tape will reduce American energy production and destroy energy jobs throughout the country.
- Regulating milk storage under the Clean Water Act like large oil tanks. It is estimated that this action would cost U.S. dairy farmers thousands of dollars in compliance costs.

Where EPA Is Public Enemy #1

The American Spectator

30 September 2010

The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Belkin reported this week that "anger against incumbent Democrats echoes across the rural Midwest." Belkin cited a WSJ/NBC poll from last month showing that Midwesterners and rural Americans are even more likely than other voters to disapprove of President Obama and to think the country is on the wrong track.

"There's little doubt that the Midwest is the Democrat's toughest region this year," Democratic pollster Tom Jensen concedes. "If the election was today, the party would almost certainly lose the governorships it holds in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania," plus a host of Midwest Senate seats.

But why? One underreported reason is the belief, widespread among Farm Belt residents, that Obama administration environmental regulators are gunning for them.

Farmers, ranchers, and foresters "are increasingly frustrated and bewildered by vague, overreaching, and unnecessarily burdensome EPA regulations," a U.S. senator charged last week. They "are facing at least a dozen new regulatory requirements, each of which will add to their costs, making it harder for them to compete.... [M]ost if not all of these regulations rely on dubious rationales."

Significantly, the protesting senator was not a farm-state Republican making partisan hay. It was Blanche Lincoln, the Arkansas Democrat who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Facing bleak re-election prospects in her heavily rural state, Lincoln convened a September 23 hearing to assess "the impact of EPA regulation on agriculture." Her clear, if tacit, message to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson and the White House was: You people are killing our election prospects in the heartland.

Lincoln ticked off examples of onerous EPA intrusions: unworkable "spray drift" pesticide regulations; proposed ambient air-quality standards that would impose impossible dust-reduction requirements on farmers; "wetlands" regulations that put even bone-dry areas off-limits to agricultural use; an ideological bias toward environmentalists when resolving Clean Water Act lawsuits.

"You're hammering the little guy," Nebraska Republican Mike Johanns told EPA administrator Jackson. Senator John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, delivered a blunt message from his constituents: "The Environmental Protection Agency has become Public Enemy Number One of our farmers and ranchers."

This bipartisan barrage put Jackson on the defensive. "The concern in the countryside that I've heard when I've gone out," she acknowledged, "is that somehow the EPA 'has it in' for the agricultural sector." Jackson denied any such intent, but she had no luck convincing the agriculture-industry representatives present.

"Farmers and ranchers have never felt more challenged and threatened in their livelihood than they do today from the continuous onslaught of regulations and requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency," said Rich Hillman, vice president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Among his examples: "EPA wants us to build retaining walls around fuel tanks in the middle of our fields and pastures. This would cost us thousands of dollars to mitigate -- what? EPA is attempting to address a problem which simply is not there." Hillman also cited proposed new EPA regulations on dust, whose mitigation would be prohibitively expensive for many farmers and ranchers.

Jay Vroom, president of CropLife America, a trade association, complained about conflicting regulatory requirements from the EPA, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Also testifying was Jere White, executive director of the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

White provided a vivid case study of how environmental activists and trial lawyers rely on intrusive EPA regulations to intimidate manufacturers, users, and even proponents of agrochemicals. He described how he has been personally targeted by personal-injury trial lawyers merely for publicly defending atrazine, an herbicide used widely and safely for a half-century by corn, sorghum, and sugar cane growers.

"Trial lawyers joined forces with environmental activists and sought to regulate through the courts what science could not support within the EPA regulatory process," White said.

Giving impetus to the attorneys' lawsuits was EPA's groundless about-face last year about the chemical's safety. The agency itself estimated that farming without atrazine would cost corn growers \$28 an acre and cause sugar-cane crop losses from 10 to 40 percent. Moreover, its safety has been confirmed in some 6,000 studies, here and abroad. After a dozen years of reviewing these, the EPA in 2005 found "no harm that would result to the general U.S. population" from its continued use. On that basis, it re-registered atrazine in 2006.

But in 2009, after Obama appointees took the agency's reins, EPA -- in defiance of all previous safety studies, but in admitted response to alarmist claims by environmentalist pressure groups and the media -- ordered a complete re-registration examination of atrazine, to include four more Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) reviews.

This reversal infuriates growers who depend on the weed-killer. It also puts atrazine's manufacturer, Syngenta Crop Protection, and even supporters like Jere White, directly in the crosshairs of personal-injury attorneys, who have been buoyed by the EPA's expressed concerns.

"I testified in support of atrazine at last week's SAP, sharing our concerns over trial-attorney harassment of stakeholders as part of my comments," White told the senators. "The very next day, activist attorneys sought and obtained subpoenas against Kansas Corn, Kansas Grain Sorghum, and me personally." The subpoenas order White to produce tens of thousands of private memos, emails, public statements, speeches, and other documents spanning more than a decade.

"With fifty years of safe use," White concluded, "if you cannot defend atrazine, what product is there that we will be able to use?"

Questions like these echo throughout the Farm Belt these days. Mired in recession, plagued by the constant challenges intrinsic to their professions, growers and ranchers look upon the EPA's overbearing regulatory apparatus as the epitome of everything that they detest about Washington, D.C. Their anger and frustration is reflected in sinking poll support for the party in power. "Is it any wonder that the American public is so upset?" asked Croplife's Jay Vroom, in a pointed reference to the coming elections.

Few are more aware of this rebellious mood than beleaguered Democratic incumbents such as Blanche Lincoln.

"It is truly the uncertainty and unpredictability that comes out of Washington that is going to fail us in putting our economy back on track and people back to work," she declared.

She might have added: "... and fail in putting people like me back to work."

The Ag Minute: Obama's EPA Has Become an Agency Gone Wild

House Committee on Agriculture Republicans

29 September 2010

This week during The Ag Minute, Rep. Frank Lucas discusses how at a time of near double-digit unemployment, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has embarked on a campaign to implement and propose unprecedented, overreaching, and burdensome regulations on our farmers, ranchers, and small businesses.

Click [here](#) to listen to The Ag Minute. The transcript is below.

"Every day the EPA seems to demonstrate how vastly disconnected it is to the folks who feed us.

"With little oversight from the Democratic leadership that controls both the House and the Senate, Obama's EPA has become an agency gone wild, creating regulations and policies that are burdensome, overreaching, and that negatively affect jobs and rural economies.

"The agency doesn't seem to realize that rural America's economy is dependant on agriculture. A thriving agriculture sector breeds a healthy rural economy. EPA's in-your-face-approach to more government regulation has increased the cost of doing business for America's farmers and ranchers. If EPA is allowed to continue down this path, the only choice for many farmers and ranchers will be to stop farming altogether.

"The threat of these regulations is so great that as co-chair of the Rural America Solutions Group, I will be hosting a forum today along with fellow co-chairmen Sam Graves and Doc Hastings to highlight just how out of touch the EPA is.

"We have invited folks from across the country to Washington to discuss the impact these current and proposed regulations have on farmers, ranchers and small businesses.

"The message we hope to send to the EPA is this:

"All of us share the desire to protect our natural resources, but burdensome regulations that cost the livelihoods of those who feed us is not a policy path we can support."

Halt EPA's nonstop assault on agriculture

Midwest Messenger

28 September 2010

Nebraska Farm Bureau is asking the state's Congressional delegation to work with their colleagues to halt the Environmental Protection Agency's nonstop regulatory assault on the state's farmers and ranchers and their counterparts nationwide.

Over the last 18 months, EPA has introduced massive new air and water regulations - including some that have no real environmental impact but merely create a paperwork nightmare for farmers and ranchers. If these regulations are fully implemented, they will have a huge negative effect on Nebraska's agricultural economy.

Farmers and ranchers are America's original environmentalists because their livelihoods depend on high-quality air, water and soil. However, EPA's refusal to acknowledge this has led to the introduction of many new, unneeded regulations.

In letters sent Sept. 23 to Nebraska's U.S. Senators and Representatives, the Farm Bureau Board of Directors cited these examples of the regulatory assault on agriculture since 2009:

EPA's "Endangerment Finding" gives it authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act; The revised Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) compliance requirements will require individuals with more than 1,320 gallons of above-ground fuel or milk storage to establish a spill prevention plan; Proposed revisions to coarse particulate matter (dust) standards, which may trigger restrictions on everything from gravel roads to farm field activities; Proposed revisions to ozone standards; New hazardous emission regulations for stationary irrigation engines; An unprecedented re-evaluation of atrazine, despite 4,000 studies establishing its safety; Action to expand federal authority over individual states' management of surface water quality; New Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) air emission reporting regulations; and Expansion of Clean Water Act permit requirements that leave open the option of regulating common pesticide applications.

EPA also proposed spray drift standards that allowed for absolutely no wind-driven drift, but later found this impossible to achieve and thus, pulled the idea. Regulations need to be well-thought-out and need to provide environmental benefits.

The list of new regulations and requirements is long and extensive. While we understand the desire and charge of EPA to protect the environment, this collection of EPA actions represents an agency that is, quite frankly, out of control.

The author is president of Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

Fashion Statement & Environmental Forum

Northwest Ag Information Network

30 September 2010

By Greg Martin

Fashion Statement & Environmental Forum plus Food Forethought. I'm Greg Martin with today's Northwest Report.

Representatives Frank Lucas, Sam Graves, and Washington's Doc Hastings, co-chairs of the Rural America Solutions Group, hosted a forum yesterday to discuss Environmental Protection Agency regulations and initiatives that are hindering job creation and economic expansion in America's rural communities. Hastings faulted the Democratic leadership of the House for having little or no oversight of these activities - and cautioned that things could get worse.

HASTINGS: Proposed bills that would increase rural energy costs and regulate irrigation ditches would make the situation even worse. And the real danger is that these bills could be resurrected after the election in a lame duck session.

Oregon is one of only 10 states that do not require hunters to wear orange. Oregon has never considered the issue and three bills in the Legislature have died, the last one in 2001. A seven-member commission meets in Bend today and will choose whether to require orange in 2011 for all 190,000 hunters or only for the 17,000 minors who hunt, or to make no change. The commission has received numerous letters and emails on the issue, many from hunters or families of hunters injured or killed in hunting accidents.

Now with today's Food Forethought, here's Lacy Gray.

One would think that in the last decade we would have advanced past the scaremongering and romantic ideologies aimed at stopping the advancement and use of biotechnology when it comes to feeding the world's starving populations. One would be wrong. Hearings are still being held to determine whether or not genetically modified plants should be allowed into the world's food supply. While this debate rages on the number of people starving to death on a daily basis continues to rise. Why sabotage genetic scientists who could provide the means to feed millions of people? Why indeed when conventional and genetically improved foods are so very similar. Scientists have simply been able to produce improved and perfected traits in crops more quickly than the traditional means which requires years of cross breeding. There is room in the world's ag industry for organic, conventional, and biotechnological food production. When there are so many countries around the world in need of food can we really in good conscience continue to deny them the ability to feed their people and be self sustaining by raising drought and pest resistant crops? Is the ideology of some more important than the life of even one starving child?

Thanks Lacy. That's today's Northwest Report. I'm Greg Martin on the Ag Information Network.

[To listen to the report, visit this link: <http://www.aginfo.net/index.cfm/event/report/id/Northwest-Report-17471>]

Obama's EPA has become an agency gone wild (Rep. Frank Lucas)

The Hill's Congress Blog

29 September 2010

By Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.)

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With little oversight from the Democratic leadership that controls both the House and the Senate, Obama's EPA has become an agency gone wild, creating regulations and policies that are burdensome, overreaching, and that negatively affect jobs and rural economies. The agency doesn't seem to realize that rural America's economy is dependant on agriculture. A thriving agriculture sector breeds a healthy rural economy. EPA's in-your-face-approach to more government regulation has increased the cost of doing business for America's farmers and ranchers. If EPA is allowed to continue down this path, the only choice for many farmers and ranchers will be to stop farming altogether.

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