



H.R. 5342

- Activist groups, with the Obama Administration's help, are hijacking existing environmental statutes in the name of fighting global warming to block domestic energy production they don't like. One such statute is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), signed into law by President Nixon in 1970.
- The legislation will ensure that federal agencies implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) won't engage, or be forced to engage, in additional assessments of procedures aimed solely at advancing a climate change agenda.
- The legislation will help reduce the flood of activist-inspired litigation designed to change NEPA into a global warming prevention statute.
- The attempt to use NEPA to fight global warming won't help achieve the purpose of NEPA. Requiring federal agencies to assess the *global* climate change impacts through NEPA will only serve to add unnecessary layers of federal bureaucracy with no discernable benefit for global climate.
- NEPA was never intended to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
- Whether through the EPA or the federal Department of the Interior (among others), the current Administration, in concert with its activist allies, are trying to make domestic energy, such as coal and natural gas, more costly to use. These policies are destroying jobs and slowing our economic recovery, a burden that ultimately falls on the American people. Our legislation will stop the Administration's attempts to impose backdoor energy taxes the American people don't want.
- This bill will assist in exposing the Administration's strategy of circumventing Congress to hide implementation of their unpopular cap-and-trade tax. H.R. 5342 will help keep the proper focus on providing meaningful environmental information to the public, while stopping the litigation, delays, and energy taxes that American consumers can't afford.
- As Congress continues to consider yet another attempt to pass new global warming taxes on to the American people, the Obama Administration is busy imposing global warming taxes and regulation through the back door- using policies such as NEPA as a vehicle.
- NEPA is designed to ensure that federal agencies carefully consider significant environmental impacts that stem from major federal actions, such as permitting a power plant or building a highway, and make the relevant information available to the public. But activist groups have a different idea.
- On March 10, the citizens of Montana were informed that 61 oil and gas leases, which would help the state produce jobs and energy, were suspended after special interest groups, including "Wild Earth Guardians," successfully sued to oppose them. The suit claimed that the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency responsible for issuing federal oil and gas leases, violated NEPA (among other statutes) on grounds that the "climate change" impacts of the leases were not considered. Special interest groups have initiated a similar global warming legal battle in New Mexico, where activists are blocking 34 oil and gas leases for the same reason.
- This primary goal of these special interest groups is about, among other things, stopping America's ability to produce domestic oil and natural gas, which we possess in abundant supplies.