

Emerging State and Federal Issues and Their Business Impact

2013 Global Sustainability Summit: Emerging State and Federal Issues and Their Business Impact

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The 113th Congress: A "Do Nothing" Redux?

- The 112th Congress was the least productive one of the modern era.
 - In all, only 283 laws were passed.
- The 113th Congress is on track to be even less productive:
 - As of August 8th, only 22 laws have been passed.

The Climate in Washington

- Polarization from Tea Party to Progressives:
 - Moderate Republicans moving toward the right or facing primary challenges. Even the Tuesday Group now calls itself center-right.
 - Moderate Democrats moving toward the left or facing primary challenges. Blue Dog Caucus very small and getting smaller.
 - Bipartisan champions still very important: there is no way to move legislation with support from only one political party.

Sustainability and Federal Legislation:

The challenge isn't just setting the terms of the debate, but also finding agreement on what the debate should be:

The body of evidence is overwhelming, the world's leading scientists agree, and predictions of the impact of climate change are coming true before our eyes...This issue has been a priority for me since I became Chairman of this Committee, because climate change puts our environment and public health at great risk. – **Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**

The climate has always and will always be changing because there are influences on our climate that will always be outside Congress's control. – **Senator David Vitter, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**

In the current environment, smaller, bipartisan sustainability proposals can still gain traction

- S.761 The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013
 - Sponsored by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH)
 - Passed out of Committee on May 8th, and currently awaits floor action
 - Among other provisions, it:
 - Establishes a financing program for energy efficient retrofits of existing commercial buildings
 - Directs DOE to help develop a national model building energy code



In light of the current Congressional gridlock, industry needs to be adaptable

How do you make sustainability part of a larger legislative agenda?

FMI's Legislative Priorities

- Farm Bill
 - SNAP (Food Choice)
- Interchange / Swipe Fees
- Health Care Amendments
- Tax Reform / Tax Simplification
- E-Fairness
- Pensions
- Patent trolls

While Congress may be slow to act on legislation, sustainability is playing an important role in two other areas

- Regulatory process
- State legislatures

June 25, 2013

President Obama announces an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of his regulatory authority

- Reduce emissions from power plants through the rulemaking process
- Increase spending on "green energy" technology
- New spending to protect areas from the impacts of climate change (e.g. hurricanes, droughts)

The retail industry has a long history of working with regulatory agencies on environmental and sustainability issues

Refrigerants

Montreal Protocol

- Green Chill

EPA Regulation

States Have Been Very Active on the Sustainability Front

Bottle bills

Plastic bag bans

Chemicals

CSR

Conclusion

A Pro-active Industry Response v.

Legislative & Regulatory Limbo

Thank you

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Representing the Makers of the World's Favorite Food, Beverage and Consumer Products

Federal Healthy Homes Initiative

Global Sustainability Summit

Michael Gruber August 16, 2013

National Policy

United States Housing Act of 1937

Congress established as a policy of the Unites States

"Remedy the unsafe and insanitary housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of low income, in rural or urban communities, that are injurious to the health, safety, and morals of the citizens of the Nation."



The Surgeon General's Call to Action To Promote Healthy Homes

2009



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Advancing Healthy Housing

A STRATEGY FOR ACTION



2013 A Report from the Federal

Healthy Homes Work Group



Recent Action in Advancing U.S. Policy

- > 2009 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes
 - To begin national dialogue, urge coordination, develop imaginative and realistic solutions to ensure safe, healthy, affordable, accessible homes
- Federal Healthy Homes Work Group led by Department of Housing & Urban Development
 - Agency experts identifying issues to be addressed through interagency efforts and to recommend interagency actions.
- 2013 "Advancing Healthy Housing, A Strategy for Action"
 - Initial framework to coordinate federal action, craft a healthy homes model
 - Federal Partners: USDA, CDC, EPA, HHS, DOE, DOL, NIEHS, NIST



Federal Vision, Goals & Concept

Vision: Reduce the number of American homes with residential health & safety risks

- Five Goals:
 - I & II Establish & Encourage adoption of Healthy Homes Recommendations
 - III Create and support training and workforce development to address health hazards in housing
 - IV Educate the public about healthy homes
 - V Support research that informs and advances healthy housing in a costeffective manner
- Concept: Dry, Clean, Pest Free, Safe, Well Maintained, Contaminant Free, Well Ventilated, Thermally Controlled



Legislative Proposal

S. 291, To establish an Interagency Council on Healthy Housing

Sponsor: Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)

Cosponsors: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)

 Promote coordination and collaboration among federal agencies involved in housing, public health and preparedness

 Council will be comprised of: HHS, HUD, EPA, DOE, DOL, VA, USDA, Education and Treasury.



Interagency Council on Healthy Housing

- Interagency Council Co-chaired by Secretary of HHS & HUD
- Six non-Federal employee members, of whom:
 - One shall be a State or local Government Director of Health or the Environment
 - One shall be a State or local Government Director of Housing or Community Development
 - <u>Two</u> shall represent nonprofit organizations involved in housing or health issues
 - <u>Two</u> shall represent for-profit entities involved in the housing, banking, or health insurance industries
- No Industry representation on the Council



Benefits of Engagement

- Promote public-private information sharing & cooperation
- Improve federal programs & services
- Bolster industry awareness and reputation
- Participate in statutory regulatory reform & recommendation process



Advancing Policy Priorities

- Work Groups
- Advisory Councils
- Studies
- Best Practices Recommendations
- Federal Purchasing Preferences



Thank you

Enjoy Seattle

