

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 5.21.10

Total of 14 Placements

- Print: 3
- Blog/Online: 7
- Broadcast: 4

Coverage Summary:

The Hill published an op-ed by Pickens discussing the oil spill in the Gulf and how we should not allow this accident to divert our attention away from our dependence on foreign oil. The piece highlights the benefits of using natural gas to fuel heavy trucks and fleet vehicles, pointing out that the NAT GAS Act is a part of the Kerry-Lieberman bill.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Spill Should Not Divert Attention From Foreign Oil** – *The Hill* – 5/20/10

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Letter: Alternate Energy Means Us Independence** – *The Herald News* – 5/21/10
- **Deutsche Bank Funding Will Give A Push To Local Wind Developer** – *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – 5/20/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **US Gas Industry Hesitant To Take Advantage Of Gulf Oil Spill** – *Platts* – 5/20/10

- **Kerry And Unlikely Ally Talk Up Climate Bill** – *Washington Post Blog* – 5/19/10
- **Boone Pickens And John Kerry -- Campaign Foes Become Convenient Climate Allies** – *Dallas Morning News Blog* – 5/20/10
- **Most Americans Don't See Climate Policy As Energy Policy** – *Dallas Morning News Blog* – 5/20/10
- **Groups Align Over Climate Bill** – *Congress.org* – 5/20/10
- **The Climate Post: Defining Moment Still Seeks Definition** – *Grist.org* – 5/20/10
- **Five-Ring Circus on Capitol Hill** – *Renewable Energy World* – 5/21/10

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Spill Should Not Divert Attention From Foreign Oil – *The Hill* – 5/20/10

By T. Boone Pickens

Without minimizing the environmental issues involved in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, let's focus on the economics of the situation. This accident has not disrupted the 19 million barrels of oil we used every day in April – 12.3 million of which was imported oil. In the weeks since the accident, crude oil prices have actually dropped about \$15 per barrel – which shows there are much broader forces at work in pricing crude than even a spill like this one.

We should not allow this accident to divert our attention away from our continuing dependence on foreign oil – especially oil from OPEC nations. We are importing nearly two-thirds of our oil requirements, and 70 percent of that is used as gasoline to fuel our 250 million SUVs, cars, and light trucks; and as diesel to power our 8 million heavy trucks.

Since I introduced the Pickens Plan in July 2008, I have said I was for “anything American” when it came to fueling our economy. Oil is a non-factor in the generation of electricity, so where can we find a substitute for OPEC oil as a transportation fuel?

Right under our feet.

In North America we have some 4,000 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas reserves. That is enough to last 200 years. We have more than twice the energy stored in our natural gas than the Saudis have in what they claim their oil reserves to be.

A battery will not push a heavy truck. The only substitute for diesel as a fuel for 18-wheelers is natural gas.

Natural gas is the most widely distributed natural resource in the nation. Natural gas lines run up every street and down every alley in just about every city and town in America. There are a number of classes of vehicles that are prime candidates for be Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV): Refuse and Recycling trucks (which are among the most inefficient vehicles on the road because they spend their entire day either idling or traveling at walking speed), municipal and school buses, express delivery and utility service trucks; and municipal, county and state fleets all go home to “the barn” every night so that refueling infrastructure is not an issue.

Over-the-road trucks tend to run the same routes on a regular schedule so trucking companies and fuel providers can easily optimize sighting of refueling facilities to handle 18-wheelers.

Environmentally, natural gas produces just a fraction of greenhouse gases of gasoline and virtually none of the particulate emissions so familiar to anyone who has driven behind a truck, or waited at the curb with their child for a school bus burning diesel.

The final piece of the energy issue is national security – which came back onto our national radar screen in the form of an SUV parked in Times Square.

Because so much of the oil we import comes from countries that are unstable or are unfriendly to us (or both), we have effectively been paying for both sides of the war on terror. If we reduce our dependence on foreign oil, especially OPEC oil, and replace that oil with domestic natural gas, we will be released from having to defend supplies from countries we don't like, and don't like us.

The energy bill introduced by Senators Kerry and Lieberman contains the basics of the NAT GAS Act – providing tax credits for fleet owners to replace their vehicles burning imported petroleum with vehicles running on domestic natural gas. That will help jump start an NGV industry in the United States that will add new, high-paying, permanent jobs all along the supply chain.

We should not allow the accident in the Gulf of Mexico to take our eyes off the goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. For the first time in 40 years we have a real chance to reverse our oil imports. We will look like fools if we let this opportunity pass.

Pickens is an energy executive and architect of the Pickens Plan

PRINT COVERAGE

Letter: Alternate Energy Means Us Independence – *The Herald News* – 5/21/10

In the 1970s, there was an embargo on our oil which caused cars to line up for miles trying to get gas. This embargo could have put us down and could have damaged America greatly because we are so dependent on foreign oil.

T. Boone Pickens said that we spend \$700 billion every year on foreign oil. Most of the countries we buy oil from are countries that hate the U.S. and do nothing but keep the money for themselves, but they don't take care of their own civilians. So many people in these oil-producing countries are uneducated and lack medications and medical services. Women are mistreated and the common citizens live in poverty.

If these oil companies said that we should all find other sources of energy besides oil, we would have been free from oil dependency by now, and we wouldn't have to be digging deep in the ocean to find our oil. However, these oil companies refuse to encourage people to seek alternate energy sources because they don't want to lose their billion dollar industry.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is being called the biggest environmental tragedy in U.S. history. The whole sea in the Gulf is being affected — fish and birds are dying and fishermen are losing their jobs and money for their families. This oil spill is creating a tremendous negative effect on America, and it's all because of oil companies that want to make billions of dollars.

When gas was more than \$4 dollars a gallon last year, the president should have taken immediate action to begin searching for alternate energy sources, such as wind power, solar energy and hydroelectric energy. If we did this, we wouldn't have to depend on other countries or worry about embargoes or high gas prices. Alternate energy is there. We just need to invest time and money into taking advantage of it.

Much of Europe is ahead of us, as far as alternate energy sources go. Europeans get much of their energy from the sun, wind and hydrogen.

We should thank God that we have such resources as the sun, wind and water to use. Whenever I see a windmill or a solar panel in this country, I know that it is helping us to become more independent. Every community in America should have a windmill and solar panels.

Energy is absolutely necessary in our everyday lives, and alternate energy sources should be encouraged all throughout the country.

Let's become more independent so that we will not be at the mercy of a foreign country and allow them to control our nation's destiny.

Dr. Irving Fradkin, Fall River

Deutsche Bank Funding Will Give A Push To Local Wind Developer – *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – 5/20/10

By Jennifer Bjorhus

A Minneapolis-based wind developer is getting a lift from Deutsche Bank. The German investment bank will help finance 12 wind projects, including five slated for Minnesota, that National Wind has in various stages in the pipeline, National Wind said Thursday. The bank also gave the developer a senior secured loan for an undisclosed amount to finance an expansion to the West Coast and New England.

"We anticipate that Deutsche Bank will participate in financing those projects," Leon Steinberg, National Wind's chief executive, said in an interview Thursday.

The projects are still subject to underwriting, but it's good news for the company at a time when many wind developers are struggling with tight financing.

Robert Martorano, managing director of Deutsche Bank's asset finance and leasing group, said in a statement that Deutsche Bank is making renewable energy a priority.

National Wind, which employs about 42 people, develops relatively large wind farms with local land owners who maintain majority ownership when projects are done. It has sold three operational wind farms so far: one in Minnesota's Cottonwood County and two in North Dakota. The 12 projects it is working on would generate 3,950 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power an estimated 1.6 million to 3.6 million homes, depending on weather and the sizes of the homes. The five slated for Minnesota would generate about 1,030 megawatts, or enough to power 412,000 to 927,000 homes.

National Wind made headlines in April with news that one of Texas oil magnate Boone Pickens' companies is backing another National Wind project in the state, a 78-megawatt wind farm it's developing around Goodhue, Minn., south of Red Wing. Pickens' Mesa Power is helping finance that project and supplying about 52 1.5-megawatt GE wind turbines.

The state Public Utilities Commission has granted the Goodhue farm preliminary approval. A group called Goodhue Wind Truth has been opposing the project, which would span about 32,000 acres.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

US Gas Industry Hesitant To Take Advantage Of Gulf Oil Spill – *Platts* – 5/20/10

By Bill Holland

The natural gas industry, which has rarely shied away from taking shots at its competitors in the coal industry, probably won't seize on the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to champion gas' cleaner properties, industry analysts and officials said this week.

"That pitch has a lot of merit," said energy policy analyst Kevin Book of Washington-based Clear View Energy Partners. "But there are two problems with it."

The first problem is that gas producers are often oil producers as well, and becoming more so, Book said, noting that many large firms are now chasing higher-priced oil and liquids onshore while gas prices remain low. The second problem, he said, is that lawmakers don't make a big distinction between oil and gas drilling because both produce "holes in the ground."

"Congress' concern about well integrity doesn't know science," he said. "You don't get a free pass because you're a lighter hydrocarbon."

If anything, Book said, well-integrity issues and regulatory actions will bleed from BP's leaking offshore well to leaking gas wells onshore. Even though the difference between BP's Macondo oil well in the Gulf and migrating gas wells around Dimock, Pennsylvania, are like "night and day," Book said that from a political standpoint "you can't make that comparison."

The BP spill is "too sensitive a topic to take that kind of advantage of," America's Natural Gas Alliance spokesman Dan Whitten said. ANGA, a coalition of the country's top gas producers, was formed to lead the fight to improve gas' standing in pending climate change legislation.

Beyond the sensitive nature of the issue, Natural Gas Supply Association spokeswoman Daphne Magnuson said "natural gas and oil don't directly compete" as fuel sources. "We will continue to explain the environmental benefits of natural gas," she said, but NGSA won't leverage BP's accident to improve the public image of gas.

A spokesman for Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy, whose CEO Aubrey McClendon has purchased billboards calling coal "dirty" and once threatened to drill a gas well next to a coal mine to demonstrate gas' environmental advantages, said he isn't aware of any efforts to change Chesapeake's advertising and branding efforts in reaction to the oil spill.

Not all producers agree with such a passive stance. Mike Maitland, CEO of Houston-based Mainland Resources, said he believes the top gas trade groups may be missing the boat. "It's a time to point out the advantages of gas," he said.

"Time to say, 'Hey, this is clear example of a clean fuel. And we have plenty of it onshore.' Gas is cleaner and more plentiful."

The BP spill is "another example of why we need to push for natural gas for fleets and trucks," Maitland said.

Book said he believes ANGA and NGSA members are conflicted because many consider themselves members of the broader "oil and gas" industry. "No matter how gassy ANGA gets, its members don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water. ANGA doesn't want to crush oil," Book said.

Any push to use gas over crude will come from users further downstream, Book predicted. Oilman T. Boone Pickens, whose Pickens Plan calls for converting the transportation sector to

natural gas vehicles, is one example of someone likely to discuss the issue with the oil spill as a backdrop, he said.

Kerry And Unlikely Ally Talk Up Climate Bill – *Washington Post Blog* – 5/19/10

By David A. Fahrenthold

U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) and T. Boone Pickens--the oilman who helped finance the "Swift Boat" ads against Kerry in the 2004 presidential campaign--met the media today to discuss one thing they do agree on: the need to end dependence on foreign oil.

In an ornate committee room at the U.S. Capitol, Kerry talked up the climate bill he introduced with Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.) on May 12. Pickens talked up his plan to use compressed natural gas instead of imported oil to power trucks and other motor vehicles.

The two goals overlap, at least partially. Kerry's bill would provide tax incentives for converting vehicles to burn natural gas.

Pickens said that, if the country doesn't move to use North American natural gas in place of imported oil, "We're going to go down in history as the dumbest...that ever showed up."

So, a reporter asked, would Pickens call on Republican Senators to ask them to support Kerry's bill?

"I hope he'll contact some," Kerry said.

"Well, uh, let me think about it," Pickens said. He paused. "I'm not sure how active I'm going to be on it."

He said he wanted to hear more about Republicans' reactions to the bill before doing any lobbying.

Boone Pickens And John Kerry -- Campaign Foes Become Convenient Climate Allies –
Dallas Morning News Blog – 5/20/10

By Dave Michaels

We have a [story up today](#) about the unusual alliance between Senator [John Kerry](#) and Dallas energy investor [T. Boone Pickens](#), who sees Kerry's [Senate](#) climate bill as the best path forward for the elements of his Pickens Plan. It's not necessarily that these two men, who feuded during the 2004 presidential campaign, now see eye to eye about how to stop [climate change](#). Kerry's bill aims to regulate heat-trapping emissions, while Pickens is waging a campaign against foreign oil.

It's a marriage of convenience. As Pickens said today at a breakfast with the Texas State Society in Washington, "I've got to ride every horse that comes by." Meaning: the tax credits that Pickens wants for natural gas vehicles probably won't ever pass the Senate in a stand-alone bill. He needs to nestle them into a larger piece of legislation that will make it through the chamber.

Nor does Pickens seem convinced that the climate bill will pass. (Most analysts think its chances of passage during a highly partisan election year are slim.) Here's how he addressed that possibility during an amusing exchange with Rep. [Joe Barton](#), an avowed opponent of climate-change regulation, during today's breakfast:

Pickens: "I've got to ride every horse that comes by, until we get a horse that everybody can OK. So I don't know whether this horse makes it or not."

Barton: "It won't."

Pickens: "Okay, I was suspicious about that."

Most Americans Don't See Climate Policy As Energy Policy – *Dallas Morning News Blog* – 5/20/10

By Dave Michaels

At a speech yesterday in Washington, [T. Boone Pickens](#) criticized [President Obama](#) for failing to develop a viable energy policy. Presumably, Pickens doesn't see the [White House's](#) call for climate-change legislation as a policy that would advance domestic energy production and improve [energy security](#).

Nor do most Americans, according to a new poll by The [Society for Human Resource Management](#) and National Journal. The poll found that most Americans want to see [Congress](#) pass an energy bill, but don't assign the same priority to climate-change legislation.

From Nat'l Journal:

Two-thirds of Americans say it is "very important" for Congress to pass legislation addressing energy policy, but only one-third put [climate change](#) in the same category in a recent poll.

The Society for Human Resource Management/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, conducted with the [Pew Research Center](#), found that majorities ranked four other issues as very important, but only 32 percent said so about climate change. Topping the list was jobs, at 81 percent, followed by energy at 67 percent. More than half of those polled said action on immigration and action on regulation of financial markets was very important.

Interesting side note from the poll: immigration ranks as a higher concern for Americans than climate policy. But the [Senate](#) thinks differently. Climate is ahead of immigration on the list of Senate priorities, although neither are likely to break through to passage in a hyper-partisan election year.

Groups Align Over Climate Bill – *Congress.org* – 5/20/10

By Ambreen Ali

For such an anticipated bill, the climate change proposal unveiled last week didn't make much of a splash on Capitol Hill.

After a flashy press conference with business leaders and environmentalists, the chief authors didn't even formally introduce the bill. They barely discussed it with their colleagues at the weekly party luncheons.

But off the Hill, interest groups mined the 957-page proposal and divided into camps in support of or against the bill. Some beefed up their lobbying efforts to amend the proposal, while others backed away from it entirely.

Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) are being deliberate about how they move their proposal forward, taking time to curry support from those groups as well as industry leaders like oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens .

Their bill may still face a referendum soon. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has about three weeks left to call for a vote on her resolution blocking the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases.

That bipartisan proposal could decide what happens with the Kerry-Lieberman proposal, the New York Times reports:

Many observers see Murkowski's resolution as doomed, in part because it is unlikely to win President Obama's signature if it clears both chambers of Congress or withstands a veto. But even if it fails, observers say the vote could signal whether the Senate is prepared to quash or kick-start the climate bill.

Advocacy groups have tried to weigh in on the Murkowski vote for this reason. The Union of Concerned Scientists sent a letter with more than 1,800 signatures asking lawmakers to vote against the proposal.

Dozens of agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation , lined up on the other side, saying Congress – not the E.P.A. – should decide how greenhouse gases are managed.

Lawmakers already seem skeptical about the climate bill's chances. They senators need 60 votes at a time when lawmakers are particularly sensitive about the upcoming election season.

"My feeling is it's not going to be coming up this year, but if it does I will dig into it at great depth," Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) told Reuters .

In addition, the powerful transportation lobby plans to fight the bill. The groups represent truckers, public transit companies and workers, motorists, and construction workers.

The coalition of 28 organizations argues that the climate bill takes money away from the nation's crumbling infrastructure of highways, bridges, and public transit, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports.

A key aspect of the Kerry-Lieberman bill is charging transportation companies a fee for using carbon fuel. The groups say that money should go back into building public transit, rather than to reducing the deficit or tax refunds.

Environmental groups are split on the proposal. Groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council and League of Conservation Voters have called on President Obama to show leadership on this issue and urge the senate to pass this bill.

At the same time, a Climate Reality Check coalition has emerged with organizations like Friend of the Earth, which have been skeptical of industry involvement in the Kerry-Lieberman bill. That group has asked lawmakers not to support this proposal, saying it would actually do more harm than good to the environment.

The World Wildlife Fund has increased its lobbying budget by 600 percent in the last year with the hope of amending the bill. The group wants the bill to focus more globally and invest in clean technologies in developing countries, according to the New York Times .

A new set of reports on climate change may affect the debate, too. The National Research Council made a splash this week by unveiling three reports that urge the U.S. to take quick action on climate change.

Congress requested the arm of the National Academy of Sciences to research the topic, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration paid for the publications. One scientist called it "the most comprehensive report ever on climate change."

The reports may help Kerry and Lieberman make the case for a cap on greenhouse gases for the nation's biggest pollutants, but they may also be used by environmentalists to argue that the proposed bill doesn't go far enough.

“We really need to get started right away. It's not opinion, it's what the science tells you,” one of the reports authors told the Seattle Times.

The Climate Post: Defining Moment Still Seeks Definition – *Grist.org* – 5/20/10

By Eric Roston

First things first: Sens. John Kerry and Joe Lieberman last week unveiled their draft energy and climate legislation, called the American Power Act, in a Senate committee room overstuffed with lobbyists, policy wonks, journalists, and other observers. The bill's authors must steer it through the "usual" complexity intrinsic to the climate debates, and now too through the political storms over immigration reform and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Economic modeling is expected to take another few weeks at executive agencies, although first impressions have emerged in the media and on the Web, including the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Time, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Natural Resources Defense Council, Covington & Burling, and the Center for American Progress. In the meantime, Kerry held a mini-launch event in Washington with T. Boone Pickens, the oil-and-gas financier turned energy policy activist.

Within the next three weeks senators are expected to vote on a measure that would nullify the Environmental Protection Agency's 2009 finding that greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Clean Air Act. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's resolution probably will not pass, but she and colleagues are eager to voice disapproval of the White House's energy policy, particularly as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid decides how to proceed on the issue.

A new Pew Research Center poll has found that just 32 percent of Americans agree it is "very important" for Congress to act on climate change, compared with 81 percent on the economy and jobs, and 67 percent on U.S. energy needs.

To cap or not to cap: The Deepwater Horizon blowout continues to absorb time and attention from many people in the energy and climate space. The prospect of major legislation typically prompts a suite of committee hearings on Capitol Hill. The last two weeks, hearings about the Gulf have dominated the schedule. President Barack Obama won the news cycle for a day last week by calling the testimony of BP, Transocean, and Halliburton executives a "ridiculous spectacle." Democrats would like to raise the cap on oil spill liability damages, from \$75 million to \$10 billion, or, as Reid prefers, no limit at all. Republicans have opposed such measures.

BP has siphoned up to 5,000 gallons a day from the broken pipe, and in the next few days should be ready to try to halt the gusher by jamming it. The EPA slapped BP for deploying toxic dispersants over the oil slick at the surface, and on Wednesday asked the company to provide a list of alternatives-and to start using one within three days.

A live shot of oil streaming from the sea floor is now available here, after a request from Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Gusher from climate scientists: Markey's committee held a hearing on science and climate politics today, which comes after increased public activity in the scientific community. They're aiming at critics who are unduly skeptical or dismiss the physical evidence of manmade climate change.

The National Research Council weighed in this week with three reports on climate science, mitigating against change, and adapting to impacts. In *Limiting the Magnitude of Future Climate Change*, a panel led by Robert Fri of Resources for the Future argues for atypically strong policy measures. The researchers recommend that the U.S. abide by a strict carbon "budget," to last from 2012 to 2050, a period when greenhouse gas emissions should drop between 80 and 50 percent below 1990 levels. The panel calls the recommendation "a significant departure from business as usual," and bases conclusions in part on Stanford University's Energy Modeling Forum. The implementation advice is pretty standard, even if the voice isn't. The National Academy is saying here in no uncertain terms: "Adopt an economy-wide carbon pricing system."

The reports came out a day after the price of a carbon dioxide emission permit on the Chicago Climate Futures Exchange fell 2.4 percent, to \$2.05, on doubts that climate legislation will pass this year.

In line with predictions: Howard Kurtz, media critic of the Washington Post, recently brought national attention to how the national media missed the disastrous recent flooding in Nashville. But in doing so, he omitted the topic of global warming. Such floods are in line with climate change predictions. Kurtz quotes Mark Silverman, editor of the Tennessean: "In journalism, [Silverman] says, 'everyone wants to have a villain. But there are no villains yet, except for Mother Nature.'" And, increasingly likely, except for unchecked industrial emissions and deforestation.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that last month was the warmest April on record, and the 34th consecutive April above the 20th century average. The 2010 January to April average was hotter than any similar period in the record.

Defining moment seeks definition: This week the New York Times' Tom Friedman stands out amid the cacophony of articles evaluating the Obama administration's response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, mostly for putting forth this provocative argument: "No, the gulf oil spill is not Obama's Katrina. It's his 9/11 -- and it is disappointing to see him making the same mistake George W. Bush made with his 9/11." (If nothing else, the comparison is shocking to people whose primary association with 9/11 is mass murder.) Friedman writes that he's disappointed with Obama for squandering momentum after a major event lays bare the dangerous core of our energy system. He laments that the president has offered no vision paramount to the problem, and has hidden his bullpen of science and policy advisors -- Energy Secretary Steven Chu, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, chief science adviser John Holdren: "I know endangered species that are seen by the public more often than them."

Five-Ring Circus on Capitol Hill – *Renewable Energy World* – 5/21/10

Partisanship, midterm elections, compromise and possibly even fratricide in Washington, DC begin to shape jobs, energy, climate and tax bills.

By Scott Sklar, President of The Stella Group, Ltd.

Now that the President's healthcare bill has passed (in what turned out to be a cliffhanger of a vote) and as mid-term elections approach, Democrats have begun a courting ritual of sorts in order to enlist Republican support for a climate bill.

South Carolina Senator Lindsay Graham is leading the Republican dialogue that seeks to bring offshore oil and gas drilling (for which The White House has recently shown its support) and intense support and subsidy for nuclear energy into the eventual bill. Senator Graham threw a wrench in the works last month when he pulled out of the climate bill dialogue in favor of immigration reform.

The White House changed its stance on oil drilling presumably to woo Republicans on the Climate Bill. The change prompted, Bob Dinneen, president of the Renewable Fuels Association to publicly declare, "Relying on 20th century energy sources to address 21st century challenges will not solve the problem. He added that "Oil and other fossil fuels are finite resources. While we cannot ignore their contributions, neither can we ignore the reality that reliance on them is simply unsustainable."

The Kerry-Graham-Lieberman Bill, which is the new 'bipartisan' climate bill, was not going to include a renewable electricity standard, but Congressional Quarterly Today suggests otherwise in its recent article "Nuclear Role in Climate Bill is Unresolved." The article implies that the discussion about an RES (or clean energy standard) is ongoing and also says that Graham suggested there could be a way to work out a hybrid renewable and nuclear standard on the Senate floor.

Energy prices and security are driving Congressional action on yet another energy bill. In the April 13th issue of Politico, none other than T. Boone Pickens penned his plea "To Compete with China, the US Must Tap Natural Gas". Now I don't agree with everything T. Boone promotes (which happens to be his own self-interest vis à vis his natural gas holdings) but even with all that baggage, his thesis deserves attention.

He asserts that given the current growth rates of China (and India) as the world begins to enter economic recovery, oil demand will exceed what producers can supply. And he says, "One hundred dollars a barrel of oil is not out of the question." That's also true globally for natural gas, so we will again see the global prices rise. He further supports use of natural gas for trucks to offset diesel fuel explaining that one-third of the oil America imports goes to diesel fuel for 18-wheelers.

On the tax side, The Energy Efficiency Community has been rallying around a proposal called BuildingSTAR: Job Creation through Retrofits of Commercial, Institutional and Multi-Family Buildings (PDF). The proposal would increase the Energy Efficient Commercial Tax Deduction from \$1.80 to \$3.00 per sq ft. These would be for retrofits for more efficient windows, insulation, hvac equipment, duct testing and sealing, interior and exterior lighting, control and monitoring equipment and systems, and audits.

In early March, Senators Merkley (OH), Pryor (AR), Mr. Brown (OH), Stabenow (MI), Sanders (VT), and Cardin (DE) introduced a bill (S.3079) that would focus on incremental efficiency improvements of existing technologies. The bill irked the ground-coupled (geothermal) heat pump and solar industries because their "appliances" out-perform those that use traditional technologies. As a result, Senators Feingold (D-WI) and Ensign (R-NV) introduced S.3021 to incorporate 'direct use' renewables — geothermal heat pumps, solar daylighting, and renewable energy heating and cooling (primarily solar, geothermal and biomass) as eligible for the RPS. The bills have been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Earth Day co-founder Dennis Hayes threw a political bombshell in his April 28th article in the Huffington Post. Wrote Hayes,

In recent weeks, the rich assortment of tax incentives, federal guarantees and loans, and pure pork in the Kerry-Graham-Lieberman bill had begun to tempt so much of corporate America to the trough that they might have whipped the reluctant Republicans into passing it. It would actually have made things worse. It would have eliminated the regulatory backstop the EPA can exercise under existing law.

It would have eliminated the ability of states, cities and regions to continue to experiment with the innovative programs that to date have been the source of all climate progress in the United States.

It would have permitted a tradeable derivatives market vastly more complicated than the mortgage scams that nearly brought down western civilization two years ago. Worse, it would have transferred vast federal wealth to companies that — like the American South in 1850 — have a vested interest in ensuring change does not happen.

Hayes, like me, supports the Cantwell Collins alternative. He states:

The Cantwell-Collins bill is not unflawed but has the basic structure right. It caps carbon "upstream" at the 2,000 places — ports, pipelines, mine mouths, etc. — where it enters the economy. It auctions carbon permits each year up to the limits of the cap — so, unlike with KGL, we will know precisely how much carbon will be emitted to the atmosphere each year from all fossil fuels. Cantwell-Collins returns 75 percent of the revenue collected to the public on a pro rata basis. Because the rich spend more (directly and indirectly) on energy than the poor, more than 80 percent of the public will be made richer by this progressive revenue measure. All the money will be returned to taxpayers and invested in technologies designed to reduce carbon — not to enrich coal companies and oil companies and pay for their lobbyists.

The spring Congressional sessions will be juggling a Supreme Court nomination, a restructuring and re-regulation of the financial community, and a Climate Bill, which will all become intensely partisan. Add to that, parallel actions on an Energy Bill and on a Tax Bill including energy provisions, and you have five-ring circus.

It's far too early to tell whether the intense partisanship will grind the process to a halt, or whether some of these parallel efforts will be aggregated into larger legislative packages. A Climate Bill can grind to a halt or include energy and energy tax issues in a more omnibus fashion to attract votes and bipartisan support.

No one can determine now if all these events will move or stall legislation. But what I can tell you for sure is that there will lots of grandstanding, more proposals introduced, increased tension among parties, industries and advocacy groups, as well as some great political theater.

I can't tell you how much global climate change will raise average global temperatures, but I can guarantee you that temperatures in Washington, DC can only go steeply up.

*Scott Sklar runs The Stella Group, Ltd., a strategic marketing and policy firm advancing the utilization of clean, distributed energy applications. His coauthored book *The Forbidden Fuel: A History of Alcohol Fuels* was just updated and re-released by the University of Nebraska Press, and his other coauthored book, *A Consumer Guide to Solar Energy*, was re-released for its third printing. Sklar is an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University teaching a multi-disciplinary sustainable energy course beginning September 2010.*

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. Monsters And Money In The Morning

WBBM-TV (CBS) CH 2, Chicago | DMA: 3

05/20/2010, 06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

[EC] 00:06:10 ...You will know from looking at the video it's horrible. While they give an estimate on the volume of the leak, that it was a great deal more. If I can see television pictures from the moon and I can see television pictures from the bottom of the ocean, why can't I plug a leak on the bottom of the ocean? Put guys in submersible to go down there with wrenches and turn it off. I can't understand why it's such a problem. They had Red Adair to fight fires...Get your guy **Boone Pickens** to figure out how to turn it off ... 00:08:11

Keywords:Oil Spill; British Petroleum; Congress; Gulf of Mexico **Oil** Spill; Army Corps of Engineers; **T. Boone Pickens**;

Visuals:Congressional Hearing; BP Video of **Oil** Leak;

Speakers:Rep. Ed Markey, D MA;

Audience: 30,605 **Spot Cost:** \$226

2. NBC 5 Today

KXAS-TV (NBC) CH 5, Dallas/Fort Worth | DMA: 5

05/20/2010, 06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

[EC] 00:57:41 This is sort of an odd couple. **Pickens** is endorsing the Massachusetts senator's sweeping climate change bill. Of course, Pickens helped fund ads to attack Kerry's 2004 presidential bid. An interesting alliance 00:57:56

Keywords:**T. Boone Pickens**; MA Senator John Kerry; climate change

Audience: 114,617 **Spot Cost:** \$1,038

3. Sean Michael Lisle

KLIV-AM Freq. 1590, San Francisco | DMA: 6

05/19/2010, 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

00:53:37 Call them the odd couple of climate change. Six years ago oil man **T Boone Pickens** paid millions to support TV ads run by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth , a group that attacked Sen. John Kerry's Vietnam War record in two thousand four presidential campaign. On Wednesday, the Texas **oilman** visited Kerry to endorse a sweeping climate change bill .. Kerry called the Swift Boat ads old news and said he does not live his life looking backward. **Pickens**, who has been promoting his **Pickens Plan** to boost production of **natural gas** and domestic **energy** sources, says he was out of politics but supported the bill sponsored by Kerry and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut .The bill encourages use of wind power and natural gas
00:55:39

Audience: 4,167 Spot Cost: \$56

4. Pronews

KVII-TV (ABC) CH 7, Amarillo | DMA: 131

05/20/2010, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

[CC] 00:03:33 Call them the odd couple of climate change. Six years ago, **oilman T. Boone Pickens** paid millions to support TV ads run by Swift Boat Veterans For Truth, a group that attacked Democrat John Kerry's Vietnam War record in the 2004 presidential campaign. On Wednesday, the Texas **oilman** visited Kerry to endorse a sweeping climate change bi the Massachusetts Senator is pushing in the Senate. Kerry called the Swift Boat ads old news and said he did not live his life looking backward. The bill is sponsored by Kerry and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. It encourages use of **wind** power and **natural gas**.00:05:01

Audience: 8,244 Spot Cost: \$72