



Lawmakers try to nullify EPA regulations on greenhouse gases

By Sara Wyant

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Washington. March 4. The list of lawmakers trying to curtail the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) control over greenhouse gas emissions is growing rapidly. Reps. Collin Peterson (D-MN), chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Ike Skelton (D-MO), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) introduced a Joint Resolution last week to repeal the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "endangerment" finding. Their resolution mirrors the "disapproval resolution" introduced in the Senate by Alaska Republican Lisa Murkowski and Arkansas Democrat Blanche Lincoln.

"The EPA is trying to use unwarranted regulatory action to go after greenhouse gas emissions without seeking Congressional approval," Peterson said. "The Clean Air Act (CAA) was never meant to be used for this but they're trying to do it anyway so Congress needs to act. Most everyone I've heard from about this thinks that elected officials — not EPA bureaucrats — should decide how to address our energy problems."

The Peterson-Skelton-Emerson "disapproval resolution" would nullify the EPA's controversial regulatory action and would prevent it from regulating greenhouse gas emissions coming from hospitals, schools and farms.

Top House Republicans, including Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio and Ag Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, on Tuesday unveiled their own resolution aimed at stopping EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the CAA. Congress has 60 legislative days to review a major rule under expedited legislative procedures and consider a resolution to disapprove of the rulemaking.

Rick Krause, a senior director of congressional affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said he doubts House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will permit a vote on either resolution.

"I don't think she would allow a bill to come to a vote that would be very close," Krause told the National Association of Farm Broadcasting News Service.

Meanwhile, the Senate is likely to vote on the identical resolution in mid-March, according to a spokesman for Murkowski, before EPA is expected to issue final rules for mobile and stationary sources of greenhouse gases. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has already said her Agency doesn't plan to regulate small emitters before 2016.

Lincoln, who chairs the Agriculture Committee in the Upper Chamber, told farmers in Memphis that her own Democratic Party has put her in the "time-out chair" for attempting to limit EPA's regulatory authority.

"I want us to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and our carbon emissions," Lincoln said, "but that's not the job of the EPA. It's our job." "We've got well over the 30 signatures needed" for the resolution to bypass the Environment and Public Works Committee and move directly to the floor, where only 51 votes would be required for approval, she said.

#30