



Senate OKs bill to promote variety of energy sources

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House leaders are faced with a decision of whether to proceed with that provision or amend the bill on the House floor to get it closer to the Senate measure.

Her main obstacle, Murkowski said, is "time and the calendar", as the House and Senate have to be in Washington, D.C., at the same time to go to conference on the bill.

Environmental policy analyst Peter Van Doren of the Cato Institute told The Christian Science Monitor by phone that the reason this bill had passed was less due to genuine goodwill than the success of each side's agenda. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., also worked to remove a series of procedural obstacles that delayed the overall bill, including an amendment by Louisiana Sens.

Streamlined approvals for renewable energy projects on federal lands are also included in the measure. "Revenue sharing is not only about fairness, it is about Louisiana's survival and American energy security", he said. Other cost-saving provisions in the bill focus on energy efficiency standards that help families and businesses save money. The bill will fund an increase in renewable energy as well as boost funding for natural gas, geothermal energy, and hydropower.

Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke says he too is encouraged by the bill's passage. In particular, SCI thanks the efforts of Senators Murkowski, Martin Heinrich (D-NM), James Risch (R-ID), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Deb Fischer (R-NE), and the other U.S. Senate members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. President Barack Obama is in opposition to the House plan and could veto its support of fossil fuel-using industries like oil, coal, and natural gas.

The bipartisan energy bill also reauthorizes the Vehicle Technologies Office at the Department of Energy, which supports the development of cutting-edge technologies in the American auto industry.

The bill, H.R.636, includes measures, widely supported by the broad aviation community, for streamlining the certification process for aviation technologies, raising the bar on aviation safety, integrating unmanned aircraft systems into the National Airspace System and accelerating

implementation of a Next Generation ("NextGen") air traffic management system. And, through the bill's work to modernize and secure our electric power grid, we believe it can make the power system cleaner and more reliable and give consumers more control over their energy bills.

The National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of State Aviation Officials each opposed the Senate provision that would pre-empt local laws. Two of Maine's six biomass plants have closed this year and state lawmakers last week passed a bill to provide some temporary assistance.

"Project developers should know that they have a rock-solid timeframe to work with, and that certainty is crucial for these large, complex, capital-intensive investments in the US economy".

Another aspect of S 2012 includes establishing a pilot program for oil and gas drilling.