

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: R. T. Bowyer, R. W. Kays, A. Krevitz, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, T. J. O'Shea, E. A. Rickart, S. R. Sheffield, D. W. Sparks (Chair), W. T. Stanley, C. W. Thompson, R. M. Timm.

Mission:

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes. The committee also interacts with the legislative monitoring groups of AIBS.

Information Items:

(1) At present, an effective deadlock exists between the U.S. House of Representatives and the White House. As such, there has been much rhetoric on Capitol Hill, but little change in the US's major environmental laws. This may change dramatically during the upcoming election cycle. The Society should continue to pay attention to energy policies. Efforts continue to focus on ways to increase the extraction and use of North American oil. While the mainstream media and many environmental organizations have focused on efforts to expand production and access to the Canadian oil sands (this coverage is often linked to the Keystone Pipeline), and a resumption of off-shore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico since the BP Horizon accident, there also has been a dramatic increase in production from on-shore sites. Several states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York have adopted or are considering new legislation to address potential environmental issues related to extracting natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus Shale layers that underlie much of northern Appalachia. As such, competition with natural gas (a commodity with a rapidly falling price), a loss of the production tax credit, and increased focus from conservation groups have led to a dramatic slowing in the development of alternative energy facilities especially wind and solar plants.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale W. Sparks, Chair

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