

NCEL

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

Info Alert

NCSL Energy Summit

July 31, 2007

TO: NCEL Participants

FROM: Adam Schafer, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Letter to NCSL regarding Energy Summit speakers, sponsors

Maryland Delegate Jim Hubbard who is also chair of NCEL is very concerned with the National Conference of State Legislatures' energy industry sponsored forum on climate change scheduled for Sunday, August 5 in Boston. He has drafted a letter, pasted below, which outlines his concerns. He would like as many signatories on the letter as possible. You don't have to attend the meeting to sign the letter. The "Summit" is billed as part of the NCSL meeting but he understands that it is funded entirely by energy and utility interests, that those interests selected all of the panelists, that the panelists, to the extent identifiable reflect an anti-environment pro coal and pro nuclear bias, and that this makes NCSL look virtually identical to the American Legislative Exchange Council. You will find the agenda for the forum pasted below this letter. If you will add your name to Delegate Hubbard's letter, please respond as soon as possible by close of business Thursday, August 2. I will be happy to give you more details on the summit participants if needed.

August 2, 2007

Mr. William Pound, Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislators
7700 East First Place
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Bill:

On Sunday, August 5 it appears that NCSL is lending its name and prestige to an "Energy Policy Summit-Climate Change" the purpose of which is to promote the political and propaganda agenda of the nation's oil, coal, nuclear and utility industries. Needless to say we are deeply disturbed by this apparent corruption of our organization by entities whose sole purpose is to promote policies which enhance their profits at the expense of the environment and America's energy consumers.

First, we understand that, while this is billed as a meeting of NCSL's Agriculture, Environment and Energy Committee it is paid for entirely by the participating energy interests.

Second, we understand that the participating experts and commentators have been selected solely by those energy interests.

Third, we note that there is no explanation accompanying the material which has been distributed to state legislators regarding this forum that indicates who is paying the tab and who is selecting the panelist participants. NCSL's "Broadband Policy Issues and Options" seminar the day before identifies who is paying for it, and NCSL should do the same for this "Energy Summit." At least with the American Legislative Exchange Council the participating legislators know that the corporate interests who participate in that organization subsidize its operation including legislator scholarships.

Fourth, there does not appear to be a single person involved in this forum who does not represent the environmental and energy views of the energy and utility companies. In fact there is even an overwhelming coal industry bias by several of the so-called "experts".

NCSL has a history of objective, non partisan independent service to elected state legislators. Unlike ALEC, NCSL has not, historically, sold its access to the highest bidder. We have certainly not served as a forum for special interests, flying under false covers, to propagandize participants with unbalanced information.

This forum is an unprecedented opportunity for special interests to promote their narrowly focused views on environment, economic impact, conserva-

tion, energy supply and alternative fuels and sources with no corresponding response from those who might have differing views.

As you are listed as a participating opening speaker at this forum we are urging you to distance yourself and NCSL from it. If the energy interests want to try to influence state legislators they can well organize separate and distinct fora coincident with NCSL meetings as do other groups like the Center for Policy Alternatives. Our organization -- and it is OUR organization -- cannot be allowed to appear to be simply another front for the special interests who want to lobby state legislators.

Sincerely,

Delegate Jim Hubbard

CC:

Texas Senator Leticia Van de Putte, NCSL President
Delaware Representative Donna Stone, NCSL President Elect
North Carolina Representative Joe Hackney, NCSL Vice-President
Carl Tubbesing, NCSL Deputy Executive Director

NCSL's Energy Summit Agenda, Sunday, August 5

7:30 am - 5:30 pm Energy Policy Summit -- Climate Change
258A Agriculture, Environment and Energy Committee

Hear from nationally recognized experts on rising energy demand, the need for new supply for electricity generation and transportation fuels, and how environmental and economic impacts play a role in policy and decision-making.

7:30 am - 8:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:05 am Welcome and Introductions
Speakers: Representative Warren Chisum, Texas
Representative John Heaton, New Mexico
Representative Carl Holmes, Kansas
William Pound, Executive Director, NCSL

8:05 am - 9:30 am Energy Supply and Demand: The Global and U.S. Review

Global demand for energy is on the rise, as populations and economies in developing countries expand. Hear from experts on what this means for energy supplies and prices in the coming years.

Presiding: Representative Carl Holmes, Kansas
Speakers: Dr. Frank Clemente, Pennsylvania State University
Ron Planting, American Petroleum Institute, Pennsylvania

9:30 am - 10:00 am Partner Meet and Greet
This session will allow participants to meet face-to-face with the Energy Summit partners.

10:00 am - 10:30 am Carbon Capture and Storage
Presiding: Representative John Heaton, New Mexico
Speaker: Darrick Eugene, Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association, Texas

10:30 am - 11:00 am Linking Science and Policy
Presiding: Representative Carl Holmes, Kansas
Speaker: Dr. Mark Eberhart, Colorado School of Mines

11:00 am - 11:30 am Financial Analysis
Presiding: Representative John Heaton, New Mexico
Speaker: Todd Shipman, Standard and Poor's, New York

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Natural Gas the Industrial Sector
Presiding: Representative Carl Holmes, Kansas
Speaker: Paul Cisio, President, Industrial Energy Consumers of America, Washington, D.C.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Working Lunch
Presiding: Representative Warren Chisum, Texas
Speaker: Bill Brier, Edison Electric Institute, Washington, D.C.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Climate Change Action
Presiding: Representative John Heaton, New Mexico
Speakers: Libby Dannenberg, The American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C.
Paul Loeffelman, American Electric Power, Ohio
Ralph Loomis, Exelon Nuclear, Texas

2:15 pm - 4:30 pm Advancing Technologies
Presentation of Solar America Cities Award to City of Boston.
Presiding: Representative Carl Holmes, Kansas

Speakers: Dawn Fenton, Director, Diesel Technology Forum, Maryland
Tom Kimbis, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.
Shirley Neff, Association of Oil Pipelines, Washington, D.C.
Dan Wendl, Trane, Texas

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Partner Meet and Greet Reception
This session will allow participants to meet face-to-face with our Energy Summit partners.

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NCEL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 1996 by state legislators who felt the need to communicate regularly about their efforts to enact progressive environmental legislation and alert each other to efforts to pass anti-environmental legislation in states across the country. Currently, over 500 bi-partisan state legislators participate in the Caucus representing all 50 states. If you have legislative colleagues that would be interested in participating in the Caucus, please forward this email to them or email NCEL at adam@ncel.net.