

## Minutes – May 16, 2019 Palouse Citizens’ Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00 pm, 1912 Center Senior Center, Moscow

**Attending:** Marilyn von Seggern, Mark Bordsen, Mary DuPree, Russ Moore, Carolyn Shoemaker, Paul Spencer, Masad Kazemi, Lee Anne Eareckson, Simon Smith, Diane Noel, Steve Flint, Andrew Munson, Diana Armstrong, Casey Johnson, Katie Gieske, Brian Dietel, Judy Meuth.

### Introductions

### Additions to the Agenda

Items are included in announcements and reports, below.

### Review of Minutes

There were no additions to the minutes.

### Announcements

- CCL International Conference & Lobby Day, June 9-11, 2019 in D.C. [cclusa.org/conference](http://cclusa.org/conference) . Attending from our chapter will be four Moscow High School students, Lee Anne Eareckson (MHS), Kathy Dawes, Mac Cantrell, and Judy. Mary will contact the Daily News with a press release and ask for a reporter to cover the story.
- Pullman Climate Action Plan Committee – At CCL’s request, Pullman adopted a goal of developing a Climate Action Plan this year. Pullman CCLers talked with city councilors and the city manager about establishing a committee to work on a Pullman climate action plan and volunteered to draft an ordinance to do so; the draft was encouraged. However, Pullman has now embarked on a conversation about consolidating its committees and will resolve that question before it entertains creation of a committee to develop a Climate Action Plan.
- Judy pointed to recent media on our work: Al’s and Michael Jennings’ op-ed, Pete’s op-ed right after the conference, Ted Moffatt letter to the editor, and item about McMorris-Rogers town hall in Whitman Co. Gazette.
- Mark shared XKCD, a timeline of the earth’s average temperature since the last ice age 22,000 years ago: <http://xkcd.com/1732/>.

### Reports

- ID & E. WA CCL Conference, April 19-20 (Send photos to Mary [maryhdupree@gmail.com](mailto:maryhdupree@gmail.com) ). Judy and Mary thanked everyone for their work on the conference. Tim Dec and Louise Stonington said it was one of the smoothest-running they’ve attended. 101 registered attendees in Moscow and over 30 in Boise.
- Rep. McMorris Rodgers Town Hall meeting, April 22, in Colfax, was attended by five CCL members, three of whom got questions in about climate change. Article about the meeting in the Gazette mentions the topic.
- Meeting with Senator Crapo’s staff member, Tony Snodderly, April 23, in Moscow. CCL members tried to find out the senator’s questions and concerns. Take-away lessons: it would be helpful to 1) suggest members of Congress talk about climate change with someone they already work with on a committee; 2) bring to DC in June: hard facts, numbers; 3) county commissioner endorsements of the EICDA may be more important than city endorsements, 4) if you get a quick response to a letter from a member of Congress, it means the office is getting a lot of input on the topic and has a letter ready.
- Meeting with Latah County Commissioners and ask for climate action or EICDA endorsement. Steve, Mac, and Mary asked for an EICDA endorsement at a recent commissioner’s meeting. Mary said that two commissioners appear to be solidly supportive and one is not, but the one not on board indicated he would look at it further. Big concern is the effect of higher fuel prices on constituents.
- Someone asked whether we know the effect of the EICDA on fuel prices, and the answer was the effect has been estimated for fuel.

### CCL—Palouse Business

- Steve Flint was elected treasurer by unanimous vote (Mary nominated and Paul seconded the motion.)

- Casey Johnson offered to serve as secretary to succeed Paul, and Judy thanked Paul for his service as secretary for the past three years. Casey will not be available for the June meeting.
- Paul Spencer offered to continue as website manager but is willing to turn over the job to someone else.
- Mary said that all Idaho CCL members are encouraged to send a letter to Rep. Simpson thanking him for his strong statements on the need for climate action, the only member of the Idaho Congressional delegation to make such a statement. At least one of us signed up to send letters to each of our three members of Congress each month regarding climate change and the EICDA. Judy sends out reminders to those who signed up to do this.
- Tabling this summer in Moscow and Pullman (and elsewhere?). Tabling can be fun and a good opportunity to develop skill in helping people learn about climate change and actions to mitigate and avoid it. Margaret Dibble has offered to organize tabling using the SignUpGenius online app. Discussion identified possible opportunities for tabling:
  - Moscow and Pullman farmers markets
  - Lentil Festival
  - Johnson Parade
  - Palouse Fest
  - Potlatch Days and other area “Days”
  - Locust Blossom Festival (Kendrick)
- Endorsement Campaign #2
  - Now that we have a bill before Congress (the EICDA), our group plans to return to “climate action” endorsers and ask for endorsement of the EICDA.
  - Identify contacts at large businesses on the Palouse (the “movers and shakers”). Discussion identified the following businesses as possibly worth targeting for endorsements of the EICDA (endorsements can be made through the EICDA website at [energyinnovationact.org](http://energyinnovationact.org)) and focused on the importance of “trusted messengers” being the ones to approach the businesses. Contact Judy or Mary with business contacts and ideas for “trusted messengers”:
    - NW River Supply (Mary)
    - Moscow Food Co-op (Diana)
    - Alta Science & Engineering (Mary)
    - Bennett Lumber
    - Schweitzer Engineering (we have two names as contacts)
    - Banks
    - UI and WSU
    - Insurance companies
    - Hospitals and medical practices
    - McGregor
    - Meter
    - Northwest Management
- Return visits to local organizations with EICDA presentations. Contact Judy or Mary if you’re in an organization that would like to hear from CCL.

### **National CCL Monthly Call**

Carolyn reported on this month’s call featuring Carlos Curbelo, former U.S. House member and co-founder of the Climate Solutions Caucus. He emphasized being positive: thanking your members of Congress goes farther than nasty emails. To watch/download/listen the monthly calls, visit <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/monthly-speakers/>

### **National CCL Action:**

- Judy talked about the approach to June lobbying meetings with our MOCs in DC: we should open with statements of genuine appreciation and try to find out what they’re thinking. We should ask questions and have a time keeper. What we really want to know is why they’re not supportive. During the meeting we will hand them letters

from constituents and give them copies of printed media. Judy handed out postcards and forms for us to fill out for presentation at the MOC meetings.

Attendees split into Washington and Idaho groups to create lobby meeting plans for our MOCs with appreciative openings and primary and secondary “asks.” (See below: “Meeting Plan” and “Making a Supporting Ask, June 2019 Lobby Day.”)

- Make a crazy number of calls on June 5th - Call Congress Day

Judy asked us to help make our Lobby Day a runaway success and increase awareness of the Energy Innovation Act among our MOCs and their staffs by calling the offices of all our MOCs on June 5. Ask your friends to do the same.

To make calling easy and to automatically track the number of calls made, it’s best to use our online action tool - [cclusa.org/call](https://cclusa.org/call). This tool gives you a script and the phone numbers to call, and if you click “DONE CALLING” afterwards, your calls will be reported so that you don’t have to submit a field report! If you don’t get through on June 5th, leave a message in the evening or call on June 6th.

- Preview of June Action: Be ready to call or tweet your members of Congress on June 11.

### After-Meeting Opportunity

7:00-7:30 – Example of CCL/EICDA presentation for organizations, classes, etc.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday June 20, 5:30-7 in Umpqua Meeting Room, Pullman

**MEETING PLAN** Member of Congress Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State/District: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your appreciation(s) of the member of Congress or staffer? How else can the CCL lobby team build the relationship with this office?
2. What is your “Ask” and “Supporting Ask(s)”? What steps would you like your member to take to move forward?
3. What are your meeting topics, e.g., discussion points, data to share, past concerns to follow up on? (Note: Pick the 2-3 most important ones, and leave others for future meetings. Leave time to talk about whatever the aide/MOC wants to talk about.)  
Local stories of climate impacts?
4. For each topic you want to discuss, what open-ended questions will you use to find out what the MOC/aide thinks in response to this topic? What do you want to find out from them that you will be listening for?
5. Additional questions you could/should ask during the meeting:
  - What important voices do you listen to in the state or district?
  - What other climate policy solutions are you looking at?
  - What could we be doing more of in the district to make it easier for you to support the Energy Innovation Act?

### Questions:

Using open questions (that can’t be answered with a simple “yes” or “no”) works best for drawing out people’s thoughts. Start with “How,” “What,” “Who,” “Where,” “When” or “Why.” For every question you ask, listen carefully to the response, and reflect back what you heard, then follow up with another open question.

- Ask for advice. Ask questions so the member of Congress/staff feel heard. Build on your relationship.

### **Suggested questions to uncover common values:**

- A [majority of Americans on both sides of the aisle](#) believe Congress should take steps to deal with the risks of a warming world. What’s your preferred plan to solving climate change?

- What are your top three priorities for this year? (member of Congress and staffer may answer differently)
- How do you think we can best transition to a clean-energy economy?
- There is strong bipartisan support for keeping our air and water clean. How can we do this while providing a good environment for business?
- The Pentagon reports that climate change is a threat multiplier leading to increased risk of U.S. troops being sent abroad. Would you comment on this?
- If a carbon fee helps the economy and helps keep global warming in check, would you support it?

**Transition Questions:** If your member of Congress is starting to change a previous position on climate policy in a more supportive direction, here are questions that help provide space to change:

**On climate change:**

- Why do you think attention to climate is important?
- What commitments do you have to addressing climate change?
- What steps have you taken on climate already?
- Why do you feel something should be done about climate change?

**On the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act:**

- What do you like about revenue-neutral solutions like the Energy Innovation Act?
- What do you find desirable about the Energy Innovation Act? What parts would you be able to support?
- Where do you see the Energy Innovation Act working for your constituents?
- When would you be able to support the Energy Innovation Act?
- In what ways are you committed to supporting the Energy Innovation Act?
- What would you be willing to do move the the Energy Innovation Act discussion forward?
- Given your interest in (X), what would you need in order to support the Energy Innovation Act?

**End of meeting questions:**

- Who do you work with across the aisle?
- What could we be doing more of in the district to make it easier for you to support the EICDA?

**Making a Supporting Ask, 2019 June Lobby Day**

An ask is just what it sounds like: asking a member of Congress (MOC) to do something you want. This document goes over our primary ask, which we want to be brought up in all lobby meetings. It also offers a menu of secondary bills that are complementary to the Energy Innovation Act that can be a supporting ask and could provide stepping stones to gaining support for our primary ask.

**Primary Ask**

CCL’s primary ask of Representatives is: **to cosponsor the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)** . *\*If your member is already a cosponsor, then focus on thanking them, finding out what support they could use in the district for this action, and perhaps how they could help recruit other sponsors or support the bill publicly.*

CCL’s primary ask of Senators is: **Make climate a bridge issue, not a wedge issue** . This ask can lead directly into a discussion about how the best way to do that is to cosponsor the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, when it is reintroduced in the Senate. The primary ask should be made in every meeting, unless your member is already a cosponsor of the bill\*. This is the first time CCL volunteers will be lobbying in June with a bill that has been introduced and it is very important this be the focus of the meeting. If your member of Congress agrees to cosponsor during your lobby meeting, they will know what to do to take that step (i.e. contact the Deutch office). If they agree to cosponsor or

express significant interest in sponsoring, please inform our CCL legislative staff by emailing [danny@citizensclimate.org](mailto:danny@citizensclimate.org).

## Supporting Asks

### What is a supporting ask?

You should always be clear that what you want is our main ask. However, many members of Congress may not be ready to support the Energy Innovation Act (or are already cosponsors). Previous meetings with the office will give you a good idea of what answer you will get to this main ask. Getting legislation passed is a complicated, coalition-building process in which lots of smaller steps must happen before we get a law, especially for a major bill like the Energy Innovation Act. Many members of Congress may be willing to support other bills that fit into the broader picture of addressing the climate crisis and are complementary to the Energy Innovation Act, and these could be stepping stones towards support for our bill.

### Bills supporting bipartisan climate action

CCL has identified three bipartisan bills that have been introduced this Congress that could be useful supporting asks. Our primary objective in promoting these bills is to encourage bipartisanship on climate in Congress. These bills are complementary to the Energy Innovation Act and address policy issues that a carbon price does not. **CCL is not formally endorsing these bills, but believes they are worthwhile for members of Congress to consider and will move the needle in the right direction.** This list is not exhaustive, and if there is a bill your group would like to use as a secondary ask that is not on this list, please contact CCL's Sr. Director of Government Affairs, Ben Pendergrass, at [ben@citizensclimate.org](mailto:ben@citizensclimate.org). You should use your best judgment when deciding whether you want to make one or more of these bills a supporting ask. If any of them are a source of conflict within your group, pick a different supporting ask.

If you wish to ask your member of Congress to support any of these bills, you and your group should do the research on your own and be prepared to answer any questions that might come up without input from CCL staff. Lobby teams for the DC lobby day should NOT use this supporting ask without input and agreement from the liaison and local group(s).

### Other Supporting Asks

If you have been working on other supporting asks, such as holding a bipartisan briefing on local climate impacts, or doing a site visit, or holding a public forum in the district, it is fine to continue with those. At this time the Climate Solutions Caucus is still not reorganized, but once it is, that is another supporting ask you could make, especially for new members of Congress.

## Legislation of Interest for Supporting Asks in 2019

### Disclosing Aid Spent to Ensure Relief Act (DISASTER Act)

**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Peters (D-CA-52), Rep. Meadows (R-NC-11)

**Cosponsors:** Total 13, 9 Democrats, 4 Republicans

**Bill Number:** H.R. 1984, Introduced 3/28/2019

**Bill Text:** [congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1984/text](https://congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1984/text)

**Bill Summary:** The DISASTER Act requires the Office of Management and Budget to submit an annual report to Congress on the amount of disaster-related spending by the federal government. The report must include all federal obligations related to disaster response, recovery, mitigation efforts, and administrative costs associated with these activities for specified agencies and programs.

## How it Complements the Energy Innovation Act

According to a 2016 government report, every metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted *now* will cost from \$12 to \$120 in the future, and that cost could *double* for CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2050. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that the number of severe weather events that inflict at least \$1 billion in damage (adjusted for inflation) has risen from an average of two per year in the 1980s to more than ten per year since 2010. It is vital for Congress to have the most comprehensive data for the total cost of responding to natural disasters when they are making decision regarding climate policy. Additionally, such data will only build the case for the need for action like passing the Energy Innovation Act.

## Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act (USE IT Act)

**Lead Senate Sponsors:** Sen. Barrasso (R-WY), Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI)

**Lead House Sponsors:** Rep. Peters (D-CA-52), Rep. McKinley (R-WV-1)

**Senate Cosponsors:** Total 13, Democrats 8, Republicans 5

**House Cosponsors:** Total 18, Democrats 12, Republicans 6

**Bill Number :** S.383, introduced 2/07/2019 and H.R. 1166, introduced 2/13/2019

**Bill Text :** [congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/383/text](https://congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/383/text) (Senate);  
[congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1166/text](https://congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1166/text) (House)

**Bill Summary :** The USE IT Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that supports the development and demonstration of vital carbon capture and removal technologies. Carbon capture and *sequestration* refers to technologies that capture and sequester CO<sub>2</sub> from such emitting sources as biomass or fossil fuel power plants. Emerging direct-air capture technologies *remove* CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the atmosphere and store the CO<sub>2</sub> or turn it into useable materials and products, and fuels. This bill authorizes \$35 million in competitive prize funding for direct air capture technologies and allocates \$50 million toward research and development of technologies that transform captured carbon dioxide into commercial products. The USE IT Act also facilitates the construction and development of carbon capture, utilization and sequestration (CCUS) infrastructure projects.

## How it Complements the Energy Innovation Act

Scrubbing CO<sub>2</sub> out of industrial emissions is already used industrially but has not been practiced widely for environmental reasons because there is currently no financial reward for doing so. Both the Energy Innovation Act and USE IT Act will change that. The Energy Innovation Act provides a rebate of the carbon fee to qualified facilities that permanently and safely capture and sequester carbon. However, the Energy Innovation Act does not address direct air capture technology, which the USE IT Act does. Direct air capture would complement the Energy Innovation Act's goal of cutting emissions while facilitating an orderly transition away from fossil energy. Many studies including REMI, the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project, and the World Bank, consider CCUS as one of the technology options likely to be a potential route to decarbonization.

## Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019

**Lead Senate Sponsors:** Sen. Murkowski (R-AK), Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI), Sen. King (I-ME)

**Lead House Sponsors:** Rep. Pingree (D-ME-1), Rep. Rooney (R-FL-19)

**Senate Cosponsors:** Total 5, Democrats 3, Republicans 1, Independents 1

**House Cosponsors:** Total 9, Democrats 6, Republicans 3

**Bill Number:** S. 778, Introduced 3/13/2019 and H.R 1716, Introduced 3/13/2019

**Bill Text:** [congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/778/text](https://congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/778/text) (Senate);

[congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1716/text](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/house-bills/1716/text) (House)

**Bill Summary:** The Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019 amends the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 . It would require the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, to update a report at least once every seven years that assesses the socio-economic impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities. The research will also focus on: identifying the coastal communities which are most dependent on ocean resources and would be impacted the most by ocean acidification; identifying gaps in research; identifying the specific risks and threats communities face; and finding possible adaptation strategies. This research would be conducted in collaboration with state and local government entities. The act also requires the Secretary of Commerce and NOAA to submit a report to Congress 180 days after the bill passes detailing the efforts of NOAA to support state and local community vulnerability assessments and strategic research planning.

#### **How it Complements the Energy Innovation Act**

The Energy Innovation Act will directly mitigate the cause of ocean acidification, but even if we begin robustly drawing down emissions now, we will still have to deal with the impacts of ocean acidification. Congress and federal agencies will need the best possible data on its impacts.