

The Washington Post

US Reps from Mo. to propose blocking EPA gas rules

By *CHRIS BLANK*

The Associated Press

Tuesday, February 2, 2010; 6:37 PM

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- Two congressional members from Missouri said Tuesday that they plan to file legislation blocking the Environmental Protection Agency from developing its own greenhouse gas rules.

U.S. Reps. Ike Skelton, a Democrat, and Jo Ann Emerson, a Republican, sharply criticized federal environmental regulators and warned that because EPA officials are not elected, the agency is not accountable to the farmers, business owners and other Missouri residents who could be hurt.

The EPA had concluded in December that that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases represent a danger to public health, which allows it to consider rules limiting them. That decision stems from a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that found greenhouse gases are air pollutants under federal clean-air laws.

But the two Missouri lawmakers say Congress did not intend to give the EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gases through the Clean Air Act.

"The EPA is controlled by bureaucrats who are not elected and are responsible

only to the head of the EPA who is from New Jersey," said Skelton, who represents central and western Missouri. "And I doubt that they understand mid-America, the Midwest, agriculture and what our farmers need to continue to do a good job for our country."

The EPA has said scientific evidence demonstrates that greenhouse gases "threaten the public health and welfare of the American people" and that the pollutants - mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels - should be reduced. That could be done by Congress or by the EPA.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who was chief of staff for New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, has said there were no further excuses for delaying and that agency was "obligated to make reasonable efforts to

Advertisement

Decide to be RICH!

"My simple, yet proven strategies for generating multiple streams of unlimited income work - now let me take you by the hand and prove it!..."

New York Times Best Seller Robert G. Allen

Let me be your success mentor.

RealEstateWealthSecret.com

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/02/AR2010020202835.html?waporef=obinsite>

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

The Washington Post

US Reps from Mo. to propose blocking EPA gas rules

reduce greenhouse pollutants."

The U.S. House approved "cap and trade" legislation last summer that would set limits on greenhouse gas emissions and give companies a way to trade emission credits among themselves. That legislation has stalled in the U.S. Senate.

Skelton voted for the cap and trade bill, and Emerson opposed it. Emerson, who represents the southeastern corner of Missouri, said the EPA frequently has sought to establish environmental regulations - even in cases when federal lawmakers have decided not to act.

She said EPA rules for greenhouse gases could be economically disastrous.

"It is totally unfair," Emerson said. "It will undo any positive things that we can do for our economy."

Skelton and Emerson announced plans to file their energy bill during a breakfast in Jefferson City for the state's rural electric cooperatives. The bill is to be co-sponsored by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn.

U.S. Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., also has filed legislation seeking to block the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide emissions.

A science organization condemned the Missouri lawmakers' plan, calling it an "attack on science" and likening it to declaring that tobacco does not cause cancer.

"Besides pretending that global warming emissions are not air pollutants, the bill would force the EPA to ignore key scientific data when determining which renewable energy sources are the cleanest," said Ron Burke, the director for the Midwest office of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

In addition to restricting the EPA, the lawmakers' bill also would bar federal officials from considering deforestation and land changes in other nations when establishing American biodiesel and ethanol policies, and would seek to help the biofuels industry by broadening the definition of renewable biomass.

Advertisement

Help people in need.

Donate your car, boat or RV

Free Towing • Tax Deductible

FREE
3 day vacation
to over 80
destinations





Call Toll-Free

1-877-225-9384

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/02/AR2010020202835.html?waporef=obinsite>

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™