



# CARBON CAPTURE COALITION

## Legislative Work Group Meeting Notes September 10, 2025

### Meeting Summary

The Legislative Work Group discussed the evolving legislative landscape for the remaining months of 2025, including potential impacts on clean energy funding, permitting reform, nominations, and work on fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations. Participants highlighted uncertainties in the appropriations process, bipartisan interest but differing priorities on permitting legislation, ongoing coordination with Congress and federal agencies on CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline policies, and efforts to streamline Class VI permitting under EPA primacy. The group also reviewed upcoming committee hearings, Coalition advocacy strategies, and engagement opportunities with federal regulators and stakeholders.

### Key-Takeaways

- FY2026 appropriations remain uncertain, with bipartisan progress difficult; key attention on NDAA, CR discussions, and administration implementation of tax bills and tariffs.
- House Energy & Water appropriations passed narrowly; Senate progress stalled, emphasizing the importance of continued Coalition engagement on FECM funding.
- Political and legislative processes affecting DOE project cancellations are ongoing.
- Bipartisan permitting reform prospects remain unclear; Coalition is actively engaging on Coalition permitting principles and education around the need for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline permitting reform.
- Class VI individual well permitting and state primacy applications are high-priority topics for EPA Office of Water, with focus on reducing application backlogs and avoiding duplicative reporting.
- Engagement with PHMSA on pipeline safety and regulatory updates is ongoing; additional leave-behinds and meetings with committees planned.
- Upcoming committee hearings include House Energy & Commerce subcommittee on permitting reform under the Clean Air Act and House Transportation & Infrastructure markup of the recently reintroduced PIPES Act.

### Next Steps

- Continue outreach to Senate appropriators and in-state stakeholders on annual FECM funding.
- CCC staff to meet with committee staff on permitting reform to share Coalition principles and explore bipartisan frameworks for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline citing.
- CCC staff to form and convene ad-hoc Class VI work group to review potential modifications to streamline regulations or other improvements.
- Coordinate with PHMSA and Transportation & Infrastructure staff on pipeline safety, PHMSA reauthorization, and PIPES Act developments.
- Participate in Regulatory & Guidance Work Group (September 30) focused on PHMSA ANPRM response.

- Register for CCC 2025 Annual Meeting (November 6) and Calpine site visit (November 5).

## Documents

- [Legislative Work Group Slide Deck](#)
- [KDCR memo – House Energy & Commerce Committee hearing on Clean Air Act permitting](#)
- [KDCR memo - House Natural Resources Committee hearing on permitting](#)
- [CCC 2025 Annual Meeting registration link](#)

## Notes

- **Level-Set: Legislative Outlook – KDCR Presentation**
  - FY2026 Appropriations
    - Atmosphere not great for bipartisan work; affecting appropriations process
    - Waiting to see what happens with NDAA, significant progress this week
    - All eyes on administration's implementation of One Big Beautiful Bill, work on tariffs, and how the big funding fight resolves itself in next few weeks
    - House has narrowly passed their FY26 Energy and Water appropriations bill
    - Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee Chairman Kennedy (R-LA) still at odds with full Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) on bill topline; likely not looking to mark something up in full committee in Senate; don't anticipate a lot of progress in committee on Energy and Water
    - Talking with others on Republican side, we have seen ups and downs even in past few days in how both sides are responding to appropriations process and Trump Administration beginning to message on a clean CR; Senate Appropriations Chair Collins and House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) are pushing for a clean CR as well
      - Will see a lot of volatility over next 6-8 days; no one knows what will happen here and putting pen to paper on a plan that folks before deadline on September 30<sup>th</sup>
      - Some reporting that maybe there's an option to package a few things with a clean CR that would be passable; doesn't appear that leadership is on board with this
      - Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is under a lot of pressure to get a win through this process
      - Both sides far apart on what they need/see happening by shutdown deadline
      - Energy and Water bill in particularly tricky spot on Senate side; only passed by one vote in the House
  - Nominations
    - Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) has started process of going nuclear to confirm large swath of nominees in en-bloc process
      - Assistant Secretary of DOE's FECM, Assistant Administrator of EPA Office of Air, and some other DOE noms would be included in first tranche of nominees; floor fight on changing rules impending
  - Permitting Discussions

- Have seen activity in House Natural Resources Committee on NEPA reform; Energy and Commerce taking up number of bills relating to Clean Air Act
  - Senate EPW also considering legislation; ENR taking policy priorities from members of committee, potential for October hearing on permitting reform
  - Manchin-Barrasso 2.0 would be their base product from the Senate ENR as they work with EPW and House
- **Coalition EOY Strategy:**
  - Appropriations
    - House E&W bill passed by very slim margin
      - Includes amendment to increase FECM budget by about \$7 million dollars; amendment more to show optically that their remains support for FECM more broadly
      - Bill still at a standstill in Senate; since Senate has gaveled back it seems lead negotiators have moved further apart on topline on this bill; No clear timeline or next steps in terms of a markup
        - Remains important for Coalition members to keep up pressure on Senate appropriators to see if we can move needle on annual FECM funding for carbon management
        - Shared an updated appropriations talking points document ahead of recess on maintaining funding for RD&D funding and also steer members away from yearlong CR given what happened with FY2025 spend-plan
        - Has been yet another round of pushback from Congressional Democrats, including Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Reps. Pallone (D-NJ) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), who sent a letter to Secretary Wright questioning the legality of the administration's cancellation of \$4 billion for clean energy projects; they requested to hear back from DOE by September 23rd on the review process and any additional plans for cancellation
          - Any additional cancellations likely to be punted until after a decision has been made on a CR
          - Continue to reach out to delegations and in-state stakeholders who may be able to weigh in with administration
  - Permitting
    - Prospects of bipartisan permitting push unclear and murky; not real motivation for Democrats to work with Republicans on big push here, given administration actions on clean energy
      - CCC staff has been meeting with staff of committees of jurisdiction over permitting, centering conversations on sharing Coalition's permitting principles and positioning ourselves to work with bipartisan members to make sure there's a workable framework for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline citing
        - We endorsed proposal for optional federal backstop on CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, will continue to see what's possible there as there is bipartisan interest
        - Efforts are largely educational at the moment

- Q: Are we working with any particular stakeholders on this?
    - A: Working with BPC on this as they put original proposal together last congress and other Coalition members who have been engaged on pipeline policy
  - Taking up additional work on Class VI, forming ad-hoc Class VI work group
  - We intend for this work group to first discuss if there are any modifications needed for the current slate of Class VI regulations that we can find consensus on as a Coalition and what those recommendations might look like
  - A lot of MOCs in both chambers are chomping at the bit to work on Class VI; hope is for this new work group to think through any legislative pathways to bolster and streamline the program
  - Also engaging other external organizations which have taken active role in permitting discussions
    - As an example: Coalition signed on to US Chamber of Commerce letter a few weeks ago calling for comprehensive, bipartisan permitting reform
      - Will look for more opportunities to collaborate with other external organizations that have like-minded views on permitting in the future
- PHMSA / Pipeline Safety
  - Shared recommendations for pipeline safety and PHMSA regs with Commerce Committee Majority; setting up meeting with Minority staff to have the same conversation
    - Majority staff not super forthcoming, but seemed pretty far along in terms of putting framework together of their own priorities
      - Didn't provide clear timeline on when they expect bipartisan framework to drop or schedule for movement
      - Also looking to set up some time with Transportation & Infrastructure staff as the PIPES Act was just reintroduced
      - Will be preparing additional leave-behinds on PHMSA reauthorization issue
- Engagement w/Trump Administration
  - Have been having trouble reaching staff at FECM, have heard this is true for others in community; Met with EPA last week
    - Q: Does Coalition have thoughts on engagement if there's a full repeal of GHGRP?
      - A: Have been engaging folks on Hill about how detrimental this could be to claiming 45Q; Seems we will have to wait for proposed rule for any extensive reactive action
  - Met with political appointee on bottlenecks to Class VI with EPA
    - Prioritizing primacy applications to help alleviate backlog in certain regions; specifically noted that Texas has 53 applications alone
    - Wanted us to share with Coalition members that EPA is urging folks to submit fully complete, high-quality applications
      - Several in queue currently that do not meet EPA's 'completeness standard'

- Hoping newly formed work group will help Coalition be nimble in these updates and discussions moving into fall
- Q: With Exxon's 3 wells in Texas that EPA issued notice of intent on, if they aren't approved before Texas gains primacy, do they just pick up where they left off or how does that functionally operate?
  - Handoff process between EPA and the state; State is in room while review is happening prior to finalization of primacy in past, assumption is that that would be same case with Texas
- Q: Is there anything required once a state has primacy requiring handoff of information up to EPA?
  - Yes – handoff little trickier since EPA cannot share a lot of their application materials; evaluating best way to do those handoffs on national level
    - Don't want developers to have to reapply after primacy secured
  - Once handoff occurs just falls to oversight of state; has to report to EPA at midyear and end of year similarly to other UIC wells
    - Confusion on National level around CFR requiring regardless of primacy that operators still have to report to EPA, discussions to ensure there is not double reporting
  - Q: Was actually curious whether we as an industry ought to take advantage of what appears to be a friendlier EPA on permitting? Louisiana has primacy but has been subject to community considerations that are slowing down permitting. Is there anything we could do to help push EPA to push states with primacy to move faster on permitting?
    - One of questions in terms of how it transitions to primacy state and involvement with EPA... needs to be turned over to state if they're receiving primacy, if that's not fully being done that's something to address further
  - Q: Curious if anyone knows anything about timing on permitting task force reports?
    - Currently in process of going through some reviews of task force reports; hope to meet later this year to finalize these reports and get them out to CEQ and Congress
      - Hoping to then have them released by next spring
  - C: Flagging that we've heard on FEOC that treasury is actively considering how best to implement, open to input

- If anyone has specific examples of how FEOC would affect your company and are willing to share that it would be great if we could include that in our advocacy here
- **Notable Committee Action**
  - House Natural Resources Committee – Legislative Hearing on 3 Permitting-focused Bills
    - Memo readout of hearing linked above
  - House Energy & Commerce Environment Subcommittee – Hearing to Address Permitting Reform Under the Clean Air Act
    - Memo readout of hearing linked above
- **Other Updates / Housekeeping**
  - Regulatory & Guidance Work Group – Tuesday, September 30 @2pm ET
    - Focused on responding to PHMSA ANPRM. If you would like to join please let staff know
  - [CCC 2025 Annual Meeting Registration](#)
    - November 6 – Lafayette Park, CA
    - November 5 site visit: Calpine capture facility