**Report on Citizens Climate Lobby**

**August-September, 2021**

1. Meeting Sam Hattrup (Congressman Johnson’s Energy Policy Advisor). On August 17 Dave Ballantyne, Bob Chase (petroleum engineer), and I met via Zoom with Sam Hattrup. Our major agenda item was to cover the eight major points listed in the ReImagine Appalachia letter to Ohio congressmen in order to discover common ground we could have with the congressman on any of these issues. The two issues where there was agreement were: expanding broadband access and supporting job transition for those in the coal industry. On other issues Sam offered cautions or objections such as clean & efficient manufacturing jobs in renewable areas, modernizing the electric grid, promoting union-based jobs. Sam said he does not see any cohesiveness to Biden’s energy policy; he thinks that Democrats are unrealistic about their energy initiatives, such as dependency on China, use of rare-earth metals, and the timing of renewable energy goals. At one point when he was expressing disagreement with the issues proposed by ReImagine Appalachia, I asked if Johnson says he is not a climate change denier, then what does he propose to do to address climate change. Sam did not respond to this question. We plan to meet with him again in November via Zoom.
2. House Campaign. For most of the month of August CCL focus was on the House of Representatives to promote their inclusion of a price on carbon in the Reconciliation Bill. While this seems like a hopeless task when applied to our representative, Bill Johnson, it is important for him to know that many of his constituents do support carbon pricing. CCL National reported that there were 11,094 contacts made by CCLers with congressmen during this period.
3. Clip-Boarding Event on August 21. CCL-Marietta was fortunate to have the advice and assistance of Ms. Ellie Sparks, CCL-National staff member, who was visiting relatives in Marietta in late August. She suggested a clip-boarding event, whereby local CCL people would converse with people at the Marietta Farmers’ Market about contacting their representative (Bill Johnson in the case of Ohio residents and David McKinley in the case of WV residents) about including carbon pricing in the Reconciliation Bill. Dave Ballantyne, Vic Elam, Dawn Hewitt, Maggie Meyer, and Rebecca Phillips—in addition to Ellie-- participated in this event; most of us participated in a training session with Ellie on August 20. Over 100 people were contacted throughout the morning of August 21 at the Market. There was a handout describing the reasons for carbon pricing and the contact information for the congressmen that were given to everyone who was willing to accept one.
4. Senate Campaign. The focus of CCL in the Senate is on Democrats who are putting together the large Reconciliation Bill. CCL would like to optimize pressure on these senators to include carbon pricing in this bill in early September when the Senate Finance Committee was meeting. For Ohioans efforts were to be directed at Senator Sherrod Brown who is on the Senate Finance Committee. I sent a message to the CCL-Marietta with instructions on how to communicate with Senator Brown. I also wrote a letter to the editor which appeared in the September 9 edition of the Marietta Times, explaining the rationale for carbon pricing and urging readers to contact Senator Brown. Early reports from CCL national are encouraging about the results of this campaign; the Finance Committee is actively considering including carbon pricing in the bill. I submitted a similar article for the weekly Climate Corner series in the Parkersburg News & Sentinel and urged its readers to contact Senator Manchin with the same message; this will be published in the September 18 edition of this newspaper.
5. Carbon Pricing Campaign for the White House. CCL national has determined that President Biden can be influential with Congress about what appears in the Reconciliation package. To that end they launched a campaign to promote the inclusion of carbon pricing with the president. Here is the link for that campaign:

[**https://community.citizensclimate.org/topics/reconciliation-actions**](https://community.citizensclimate.org/topics/reconciliation-actions)

George Banziger