

Advocacy Committee Update
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Wind power gains traction in Ohio

On March 22nd the Ohio Power Siting Board approved the applications to build up to 281 wind turbines in Champaign and Harding counties. There are applications for up to an additional 332 turbines in Paulding and Van Wert before the board. While these turbines are a good source of renewable information, there is only a limited amount of information as to the impact on migrating birds.

Clean Energy and Climate Change legislation

The recent health care debate seems to have consumed most of the energy of Congress. There is a bi-partisan effort under way in the Senate by John Kerry, Joe Lieberman, and Lindsey Graham to develop a compromise package on clean energy and climate change that would be accepted by a majority of senators. Whether this will be successful is still very debatable. The rhetoric during and after the health care debate doesn't appear to leave much room to get anything else accomplished during this congressional term.

Early word on the proposed legislation suggest a combination of cap and trade, energy credits, a carbon tax, and incentives to build renewable energy. Most of it sounds like a hodge-podge of watered down ideas to at least get the ball rolling and has little in common with the House bill passed last fall.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

The Senate bill to reauthorize the act has cleared committee and was recommended to the full Senate and placed on the calendar but no debate has been scheduled at this time.