

IF ASKED . . .

On Greenpeace obtaining memo about Energy Citizen rallies

Background: Greenpeace has obtained a copy of what appears to be a memo API President Jack Gerard sent to member company executives outlining plans for the August/September rallies.

**FEEL FREE TO DIRECT PRESS CALLS ON THIS OR ANY OTHER
QUESTIONS ON THE RALLY TO API'S MEDIA OFFICE AT 202.682.8114**

Is API coordinating the rallies?

API is coordinating with other national and local organizations concerned about affordable energy and the retention of American jobs. API is just one of many organizations involved in the Energy Citizens rallies. High energy costs and jobs losses affect many sectors, including farmers, truckers, and manufacturers. This is about giving these individuals and organizations a voice to express how unsound policy could disrupt their lives and businesses.

Some of your members are in USCAP. How can you say that they oppose Waxman-Markey?

API has a clear position on climate legislation: It opposes Waxman-Markey, and calls for the Senate to “get it right.” API is not opposed to fair and transparent climate legislation that limits greenhouse gas emissions but protects U.S. jobs and ensures that energy prices are not raised to the point where they threaten the economy.

Isn't this just a cynical Astroturf campaign?

There are those who would like to suggest that any views contrary to their own should be discounted or viewed as contrived (Astroturfing). We take the opposing view that a broad-based, robust discussion of the issues – including American jobs and affordable energy – is the best way to develop sound policy.

The 6 million Americans who depend on the oil and gas industry for their jobs do not view this as Astroturfing. Energy Citizens is an alliance of individuals and organizations that share similar concerns. These energy citizens are concerned about unsound policies—climate, taxes—that will cost Americans jobs and raise energy prices. And they want to encourage sound policies that will create jobs and keep energy costs under control, like additional energy development on federal lands and in federal waters.

We believe it is important that issues Americans care deeply about – American jobs and affordable energy – are heard in this debate.

Note to users: If-asked statements should be used as guidance in orally responding to media inquiries. They are not designed to be distributed to the media and others in written form. ###