1. Miami Beach Chamber Supports H.R. 763

The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce recently passed a resolution in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) -- thanks to the tireless efforts of two BCL/CCL volunteers.

The endorsement is the result of work by BCL’s Greg Hamra, a University of Miami lecturer on sustainability, and Corbin Shouse, a student and CCL’s campus leader at the University of Miami. The two worked together to make the case for the positive impacts of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763).
Innovation Act, which led to the chamber’s endorsement. This is the second Chamber of Commerce in the nation to endorse the Energy Innovation Act. (Which was the first?)

“It all comes down to personal relationships,” says Hamra, CCL’s Miami Chapter group leader. “The strong advocate for this is Reinaldo Borges, a Miami-based architect I've known for several years. We’ve co-presented a number of times on topics of resilience and sustainability in the built environment.”

The Miami Beach chamber approved a resolution on April 9 asking the City of Miami Beach Commission “to sign on as a supporter of HR 763” and become among the first cities in Florida to do so.

“When presenting to a Chamber of Commerce, it is critical to consider some of the concerns about the bill that may be most relevant to the Chamber’s purpose: being an advocate for business,” says Shouse, who is studying mathematics and economics. “Fortunately, H.R. 763 is designed to empower market actors to reduce emissions in the most economically efficient way possible, so these concerns can be easily addressed.”

2. BCL puts biz focus on carbon tax policy at CCL’s June conference

*BCL has organized a panel discussion on carbon taxes as part of a comprehensive climate framework at the June CCL conference in Washington, D.C.*
Business Climate Leaders has organized a breakout session featuring global business executives at the 10th Annual Citizens’ Climate International Conference in Washington, D.C. The session titled Carbon Taxes and a Comprehensive Climate Framework is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. on Monday, June 10, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The panel will help explain how business and policy leaders view a carbon tax as a cornerstone within a diverse set of complementary proposals. It will explore how a carbon tax affects various stakeholders in the business, energy and climate space and how a carbon tax fits into the context of a complete climate legislation framework.

Christina Deconcini, director of government affairs at the World Resources Institute, will moderate the panel. Participants include Janet Peace, senior vice president of policy and business strategy at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and Chris Adamo, vice president of federal and industry affairs at Danone North America.

There is still time to register by May 20th to get the early bird pricing.

3. Get an Ag update at the BCL quarterly all-hands

Agriculture is among the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions but the industry can do a lot to reduce overall emissions by deploying best practices such as solar energy.

Klaus Mager, co-leader of the BCL Agriculture Sector team, will provide an update on the profound role that agriculture will play in securing our climate future. Mager will be the featured
Any solution to the climate change crisis must include agriculture -- a huge economic sector that provides food, fuel and fiber for humanity. The sector is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions (10% of net emissions) and it can help reduce overall emissions through best practices. Mager will discuss how the BCL Ag sector is deploying better energy, water and land management practices as well as new approaches to soil preservation and restoration. Across the country, farmlands are now producing new, clean energy from wind and solar installations that create economic growth beyond agriculture, adding tens of thousands of clean energy jobs.

Register for the all-hands meeting here. You can also join the Agricultural Action team to connect with other ag savvy volunteers and stay updated on the team’s activities.

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