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# KBH Energy Center Releases Report Highlighting Insights from Industry Experts and State Officials on Implementation of EPA's Clean Power Plan

June 23, 2015

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AUSTIN, Texas – The [Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law, and Business](#) at [The University of Texas at Austin](#) released a [report](#) today highlighting insights from industry experts and state officials on the implementation of EPA's Clean Power Plan. The Plan, which aims to reduce power sector carbon dioxide emissions, is expected to be finalized in August 2015. Once this occurs, states will then develop compliance plans, outlining strategies for reducing emissions. Melinda Taylor, the executive director of the KBH Energy Center, and Romany Webb, a research fellow in the Center, authored the report. The report is based on 66 survey responses. "The report provides valuable insight into implementation of the Clean Power Plan," said Taylor. "It allows us to go beyond rhetoric and see what industry participants and state officials really think."

The Clean Power Plan envisages that electric power companies will reduce their emissions by, among other things, switching to lower carbon fuel sources and increasing investment in energy efficiency. This will likely result in a transition away from coal towards natural gas and renewable energy sources. Given this, the Clean Power Plan has been highly controversial. EPA received approximately two million public comments from states, industry leaders, environmental groups, and public citizens with a wide range of opinions on the best options to proceed with the Clean Power Plan.

To help inform this debate, The University of Texas at Austin conducted a survey from April to June 2015 on key issues relating to the Clean Power Plan. Responses were collected from 24 power company executives, 13 industry consultants, 28 state officials, and 1 regional transmission organization staffer. The respondents came from a geographically diverse area but did not represent every state.

Survey respondents were not asked whether they support or oppose the Clean Power Plan. Rather, the survey focused on issues relating to implementation of the Plan. The survey results are summarized in the report. Key findings of the report include: (1) the majority of survey respondents favored development of state compliance plans over federally-developed plans, (2) most respondents agreed that states should adopt mass-based trading programs, but were divided on the use of other policies, (3) respondents expressed strong support for market-based compliance options, (4) the bulk of respondents supported adoption of mass-based emissions targets in place of rate-based targets proposed by EPA, and (5) there was broad support among respondents for interstate cooperation on the Clean Power Plan.

"The survey respondents expressed surprisingly similar views on implementation of the Clean Power Plan" said Romany Webb, a post-graduate research fellow in the Center and co-author of the report. "There is a clear preference among respondents for state-developed compliance plans that incorporate a variety of measures implemented at both the state and regional level."

Read a [blog post](#) summarizing the report on the KBH Energy Center's Blog.

For additional information, contact Romany Webb at (512) 232-1408 or [rwebb@law.utexas.edu](mailto:rwebb@law.utexas.edu) or Melinda Taylor at (512) 619-4898 or [mtaylor@law.utexas.edu](mailto:mtaylor@law.utexas.edu).

## **About the KBH Energy Center**

The Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law, and Business is an innovative interdisciplinary joint venture of the School of Law and the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin. The mission of the KBH Energy Center is to provide the finest educational opportunities in the United States to students who wish to pursue careers in energy and to serve as a nexus for incisive, unbiased, and relevant research and analyses for policy makers, with a special emphasis on Latin America.

## **About the Authors**

Melinda Taylor is a senior lecturer at the University of Texas School of Law and the executive director of the KBH Energy Center. Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Taylor was the director of the Ecosystem Restoration Program at the Environmental Defense Fund, where she worked to protect endangered species and water resources. She has also served as deputy general counsel of the National Audubon Society and was an associate at Bracewell & Patterson in Washington, D.C.

Romany Webb is a post-graduate research fellow in the KBH Energy Center. Ms. Webb's current research focuses on controlling greenhouse gas and other air emissions from energy production. Ms.

Webb previously worked at the University of California, Berkeley, where she researched climate change policy. She has also practiced energy and water law in Sydney, Australia.

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