

# EXEC REPORT

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President Obama and Speaker Pelosi were able to put pressure on enough Democrats to pass a massive health care bill on Sunday. The vote was 220-211 with 33 Democrats joining 178 Republicans. Not one Republican voted for the bill. Eleven (11) of the 12 Democrats from Texas voted for the bill. Only Chet Edwards of Waco crossed over to vote "no." A complete analysis of the bill, and what's next will be given at the **Alliance Expo and 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** on April 20-21 in Wichita Falls. Go to [www.texasalliance.org](http://www.texasalliance.org) and click on "Alliance Expo & Annual Meeting" for registration information.

More bad news the oil and natural gas industry in the nation's capital last week: first, a group of Senators try to resurrect cap-and-trade legislation; next, the Environmental Protection Agency announces that it is going to conduct a study of hydraulic fracturing, again; and, finally, former Vice President **Al Gore** and his CAVE (Citizens Against Virtually Everything) supporters implemented a media campaign to again try to cut off the debate on the credibility of the report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the United Nations.

Sens. **John Kerry** (D-Mass.), **Lindsey Graham** (R-S.C.) and **Joe Lieberman** (I-Conn.) shared an eight-page outline of their draft legislation that would reportedly reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next four decades, including provisions to limit business costs while ramping up domestic production of oil, gas and nuclear power. Overall, the bill will include eight titles: Refining, America's Farmers, Consumer Refunds, Clean Energy Innovation, Coal, Natural Gas, Nuclear and Energy Independence. And it will set up new nationwide standards for energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as ideas on carbon market regulation crafted by Sens. **Maria Cantwell** (D-Wash.) and **Susan Collins** (R-Maine).

While the Senate was re-examining cap-and-trade legislation, the EPA announced that it will conduct a comprehensive research study to investigate the potential adverse impact that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health. Fracturing has been regulated by the states for more than 60 years. EPA conducted a study in 2004 and found that hydraulic fracturing "poses little or no threat to underground sources of drinking water." Even environmental czar **Carol Browner** stated in a letter in 1995 when she was EPA administrator that "no evidence" existed that fracking had contaminated water sources. Other studies have been completed by the Ground Water Protection Council (2009) and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (2002 and 2009). However, the witch-hunt continues.

While Mr. Gore was on his media campaign, others were challenging the validity of the IPCC study which found that humans were a major cause of carbon dioxide emissions which results in greenhouse gases that causes the Earth's temperature to rise. Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** has filed a lawsuit that shows that the process used by the EPA in deciding to regulate greenhouse gases is riddled with errors that render its conclusion untrustworthy.

"Before regulating man-made greenhouse gas emissions, the EPA was required to conduct a scientific assessment." Abbott stated in a column that appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*. "Rather than conduct its own assessment, the EPA relied on reports by third parties. The EPA's conclusions rest primarily on information gathered by a creation of the United Nations called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC — an organization that has become mired in scandal because the reliability, objectivity and scientific validity of its work has come under fire."

"Because the EPA failed to do its own independent scientific review, I am asking a court to order the EPA to do it." Abbott said.