



05.3.23

ICYMI: BUDGET COMMITTEE'S HEARING "WHO PAYS THE PRICE: THE REAL COST OF FOSSIL FUELS"

Contents

1- Witness
Statements

2- Highlights

3- Press Coverage

4- Photos



WITNESS STATEMENTS



"Federal energy tax policies... are often in conflict, such as when we impose a gas guzzler tax to reduce fuel consumption while we simultaneously subsidize oil production to increase domestic output.

Energy policy should instead account for the sizable external cost of energy consumption, such as the costs associated with climate change and particulate pollution."

**Dr. Ted Gayer,
President, Niskanen Center**



"Approximately 50 peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies... provide evidence of a relationship between oil and gas development and human health risks... increased adverse pregnancy outcomes, childhood cancer incidence, hospitalizations, asthma exacerbations, and mental health issues.

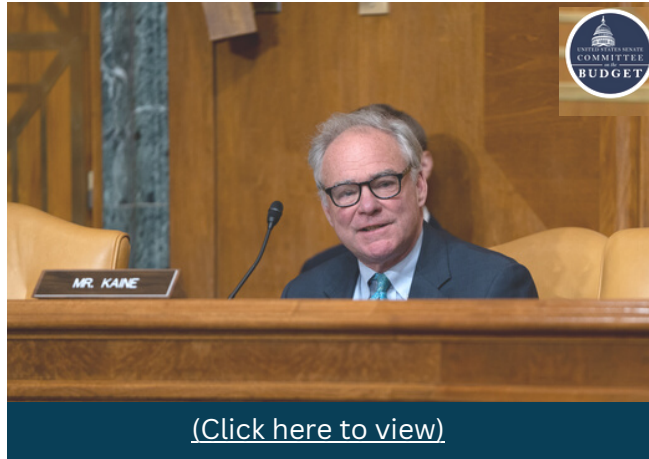
The strongest evidence is for health problems to newborn babies, such as birth defects, preterm birth, and low birthweight."

**Dr. Nicole Deziel,
Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Yale School of Public Health**

HIGHLIGHTS

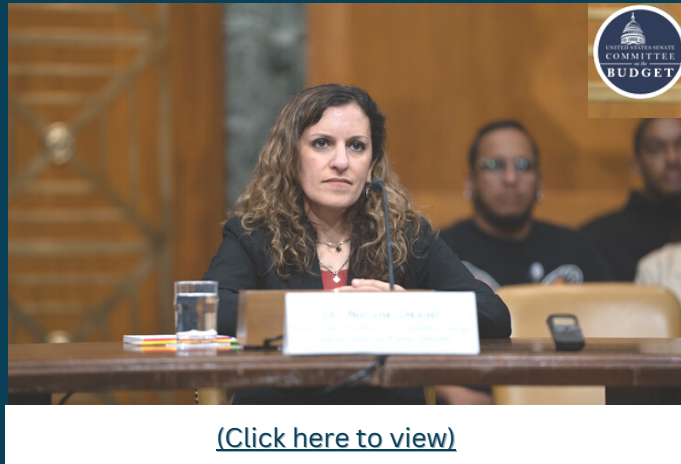
Featured Member: Senator Kaine

Virginians are already feeling the effects of climate change: 'It's a today issue.'



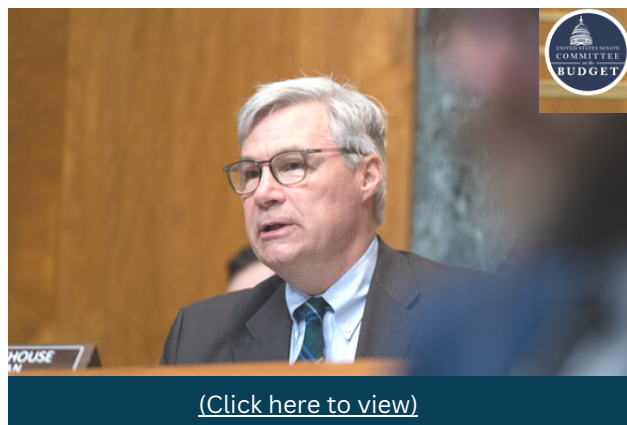
Featured Witness: Dr. Nicole Deziel

Oil and gas development has huge health costs for nearby communities



Highlights from Chairman Whitehouse

The U.S. is subsidizing the fossil fuel industry's bottom line



PRESS COVERAGE

SENATE HEARINGS TARGET FOSSIL FUELS, HOUSE GOP BILL: E&E NEWS BY: EMMA DUMAIN – 5/1/2023

SENATE BUDGET CHAIR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE WILL USE HIS BULLY PULPIT THIS WEEK TO CALL ATTENTION TO SOME OF HIS BIGGEST PRIORITIES: ENDING FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES, ESTABLISHING A BORDER CARBON ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM AND GENERALLY GOING AFTER BIG OIL.

THE RHODE ISLAND DEMOCRAT IS GIVING HIMSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT ALL THESE TOPICS AT THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT HEARING — TITLED "WHO PAYS THE PRICE: THE REAL COST OF FOSSIL FUELS" — WHICH WILL BE THE SEVENTH IN HIS SERIES ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS SINCE BECOMING THE COMMITTEE CHAIR.

"THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ESTIMATES U.S. FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES AMOUNT TO MORE THAN \$660 BILLION EACH YEAR WHEN FACTORING IN INDUSTRY TAX BREAKS AND THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF FOSSIL FUEL COMBUSTION: GLOBAL WARMING, AIR POLLUTANTS, AND ROAD ACCIDENTS OR CONGESTION," ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE UPCOMING HEARING.

"YET THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF LOCAL POLLUTANTS FROM OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION," SAYS THE DESCRIPTION, "WHICH CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LIKE LOWER BIRTH WEIGHTS, ELEVATED RISK OF LEUKEMIA, AND HIGHER ASTHMA RATES."

PHOTOS

