

Info Alert

**National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of State-Federal Relations
March 4, 2013**

President Announces Three Cabinet-Level Nominations and Releases Report to Congress on Sequestration

On March 4 President Obama made three cabinet-level position nominations: Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ernest Moniz to be the secretary of Energy, and Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

McCarthy is currently the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at EPA and has long been involved with environmental policy on the federal, state and local level, as an environmental policy advisor to five governors in her native Massachusetts, as well as holding the position of Commissioner for the Connecticut Environmental Protection Agency. Moniz is currently a professor of physics and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is director of MIT's Energy Initiative program; he was previously undersecretary of Energy under President Clinton. Moniz has publicly stated his support for an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, as well as being outspoken for nuclear power, carbon capture and storage research, renewable energy and natural gas production from hydraulic fracturing. Burwell is currently head of the Wal-Mart Foundation, although she had previously worked under President Bill Clinton in the Department of Treasury.

Previously, on Feb. 6, 2013, the president nominated REI CEO Sally Jewell to be the new secretary of the Interior. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a hearing to confirm Jewell on March 7.

Additionally, on March 1, the White House issued its [Report to the Congress on the sequestration for fiscal year \(FY\) 2013](#). This report provides calculations of the amounts and percentages by which various budgetary resources are required to be reduced, and a listing of the reductions required for each non-exempt budget account. Information pertaining to the Department of Agriculture begins on page 5, information pertaining to the Department of Energy begins on page 22 and information regarding the Department of Transportation begins on page 44.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).