

SHOCK: Fly-over states will pay the freight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B10 formally introduced only after six weeks of back room wheeling and dealing and substantial arm twisting of opposed members. H.R. 2545 has emission reduction targets that are more aggressive than those found in the Lieberman-Warner bill (S. 2191) that was briefly debated in the last session of Congress. Many reports have concluded that Lieberman-Warner would cause massive job losses in many parts of the country and result in large increases in the price of electricity.

For example, EPA's analysis of this bill estimated the possibility, under certain circumstances, of an almost 300 percent increase in electricity rates and trillions in lost productivity by 2050. EPA also highlighted the fact that those areas of the country with: 1) long driving distances; 2) large demands for residential air conditioning; and 3) an electric generation portfolio heavily reliant upon fossil fuel, would be negatively affected the most. That pretty much describes Texas — 835 miles from one end of the state to the other, really hot summers and more than 80 percent of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels. We are the state that will suffer the most under this proposed climate change legislation.

An analysis by the National Association of Manufacturers found that job losses in Texas would be from 250,000 to 330,000 in 2030, and that electricity prices would increase between 100 and 145 percent.

Another report, by the Western Business Roundtable, looked at the economic destruction likely to be caused by climate change legislation and found that five Western states would lose more than 600,000 jobs and suffer \$220 billion in economic loss, all in an attempt to produce a future temperature benefit in the year 2100 of a fraction of one degree Celsius.

A third study recently found that more than 95 percent of the cost of proposed climate change legislation would be paid for by electric consumers living outside of

the Pacific coast and New England. In other words, those of us living in "fly-over country" will pay almost the entire costs of climate change legislation. It's no wonder that the sponsors of this proposed legislation, who are from California and Massachusetts, think this is good legislation — their constituents won't have to pay for it, but those of us living between the coasts will.

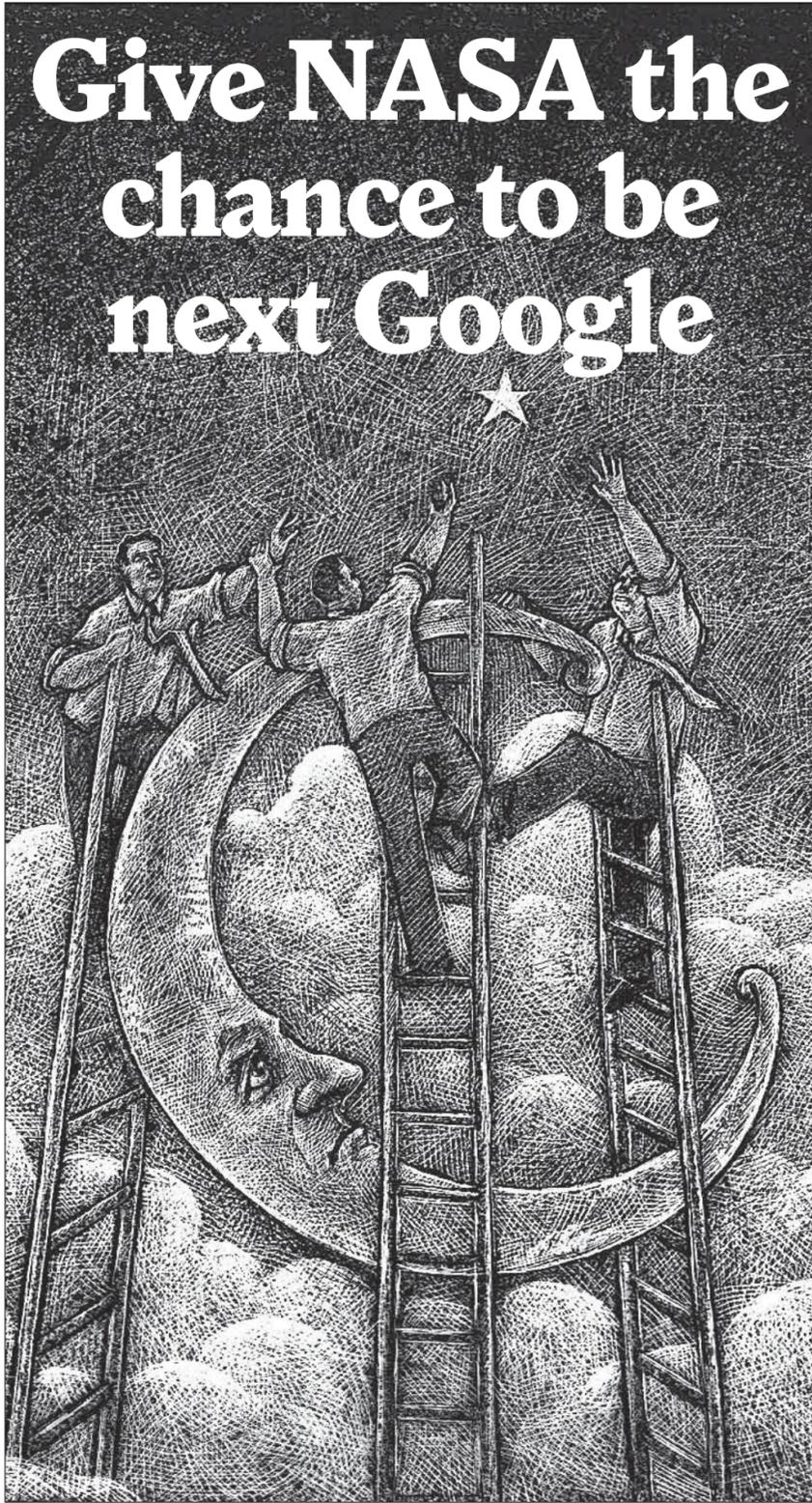
ERCOT's recent report tells the story. In order to meet the emission reduction goals in the Waxman-Markey legislation, carbon allowance costs must rise to about \$50 per ton (this is consistent with a recent study done by the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, which projects CO2 prices in 2015 of between \$48 and \$67 per ton). This level of allowance costs would result in an increase in wholesale power costs in 2013 of approximately \$10 billion. That translates into an increase in the average customer's monthly bill of \$27. During a time of economic recession, increasing the electricity bill of the average Texan by almost 25 percent per month is foolishness. (There is one note of good news in the ERCOT study — the 18 gigawatts of wind generation that we are putting in Texas is already reducing carbon emissions and will decrease the cost of climate change legislation for our residents from \$10 billion to \$7 billion.)

Texans and others living in Middle America must engage in this debate. Waxman and Markey have already passed this bill out of the U.S. House. Call and/or write your senator or representative and tell them how you feel about this legislation that is likely to destroy jobs and increase your electricity bills — all in pursuit of speculative results.

Our Texas leaders have already taken steps to use more renewable energy resources, increase our energy efficiency goals, and clean up the air. We don't need any help from Washington.

Smitherman is chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

GOVERNMENT 2.0



CHRIS VAN ES

Space agency's as good a place as any to bring bureaucracy into the 21st century

By **TORY GATTIS** and **CHRIS BRONK**

AS it celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Apollo moon landings, NASA may be facing its greatest challenge in history. Envisaged is a return to the moon, the establishment of a base there and a push on to Mars, all within far more severe budget and safety constraints than the Apollo program. Failure could mean the end of the organization. As former astronaut Bob Crippen pointed out recently ("The

next step in space exploration," Outlook, June 28, Page B8), the growing time gap between retirement of the space shuttle and new manned launch vehicles threatens the economic and technical base of the U.S. aerospace industry. Meanwhile, China's space program, flush with funds, continues to rise as a competitor. Imagine what it will achieve with the same focus and funding that was lavished on the 2008 Olympics.

A radical breakthrough is needed. There are well-documented problems with

the existing bureaucracy, and heavy reliance on private contractor outsourcing has not been a panacea. To succeed, NASA will need an organization that can enable something like a "Moore's Law of Space Travel" — yielding continuous reductions in the costs and risks of space travel similar to the rapid improvements we've seen in computer technology.

At the same time, the Obama administration wants to pioneer "Government 2.0" based on modern "Web 2.0" collaboration technologies to improve both efficiency

and effectiveness. It wants government to be more agile, innovative and entrepreneurial, and has hired federal information and technology officers to make this happen. What the administration needs is an agency to create a prototype of these new approaches — a "Google of government" able to transplant the Silicon Valley entrepreneurial ecosystem inside its organization to yield a continuous stream of innovations. Who better than NASA to pioneer this approach?

NASA is in an absolutely unique position to prototype a 21st-century organization. Given current political and budget constraints, many may consider the mission near impossible, but NASA has a mandate for change. It is expected to be creative, innovative and future-oriented. The public expects most of government and the private sector to be safe and conservative, but people understand that NASA must take risks to achieve great things with limited resources.

The rise of the open-source software movement is another example of the new, innovative organization. These very loose, voluntary associations have created massively complex applications like the Linux operating system and the Apache Web server — both now dominant applications on the Internet. The open-source movement has a principle known as Linus' Law: "Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow." With the extreme consequences of potential "bugs" in the Moon-Mars mission model, the open-source approach may have useful applications at NASA. It could also be an effective way to work with international, academic and private-sector partners, as well as to build public engagement.

To kick off NASA's transformation, we are calling for the creation of a permanent blue-ribbon advisory commission drawing on leading private and academic experts, such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Coordination Science, the Management Innovation Lab (MLab), McKinsey & Co., and even Google itself. By integrating these cutting-edge organizational tools and concepts into a single prototype organization, NASA can create a successful model that can be emulated elsewhere in government and industry. This next-generation organization may be more valuable to society than all the accumulated spin-off technologies from a Moon-Mars mission, perhaps even besting the greatest government spin-off to date: the Internet.

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CHRIS VAN ES

CASANOVAS: Someday, will it be a woman?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B10 they don't think they can get away with it.

This may be due to self-loathing or the so-called impostor syndrome in which apparently successful people see their entire career as a fraud. When what I'm doing is ultimately disclosed, they tell themselves, it will only show the public what I've known all along: just how rotten I really am.

Another reason may be "catch-me-if-you-can," a dangerous game that only the cleverest politicians like Bill Clinton, ex-U.S. Rep. Charlie Wilson or ex-Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards can play at length. Like Russian roulette, it is a game that quickly becomes narcotic, as the officeholder cheats (political) death and evades the snares of opponents (and furious spouses) time and time again.

Whatever the precise motivation, politicians out for a romp fully expect their escapades to be unveiled at some point, and they take crazy chances and put themselves in outlandish situations as a

subconscious means of hastening the inevitable crash, one they know will destroy their careers and quite possibly their families as well.

The only remaining question is why women politicians have not fallen prey to the same mental agony and sexual adventuring. Because stupidity is not gender-specific, the day will surely come when a middle-aged woman governor, senator or mayor calls a press conference, and, with her husband and children standing at her side, confesses an affair with a 28-year-old male staffer.

When this happens, will the political pop psychologists (does that mean me?) repeat the same tired explanations as when male politicians star in such melodramas? Yes, but given the personality press' fascination with the "cougar" culture today, their voices may be drowned out with shouts of, "You go, girl! Whoop!"

ntermeyer, now a Houston businessman, has held public office, elected and appointed, at all levels of government.

CARE: Self-serving arguments against universal must be countered

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B10 consuming. Yet, most of my income does not come from my patient-time, but from the procedures which, in my case, are chemotherapy administrations. I am not an isolated example. My cardiologist colleagues are paid more for doing angioplasty or placing stents than for advising prevention.

Drugs: The newer drugs have improved the survival and quality of the life of patients, but at an exorbitant price. For example, Revlimid, an oral drug for multiple myeloma, costs \$8,500 per month. And there are many other drugs like Revlimid.

True, the drug industry must make a profit to underwrite research and development. And yet, there is ample room to cut price. What good is a drug if it's beyond our reach? Besides, drug companies use the fruits of basic and clinical research done with public money: through the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation,



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universities and research institutions.

The public, therefore, deserves a share of the profit.

Health insurance: In my practice, I have to deal with about 15 insurance companies daily. They all have different rules, formalities and fine prints, and we spend valuable work time untangling them. Even then

the reimbursements are uncertain. So where is the efficiency? Compared to that, it's easier to deal with Medicare because of its predictability.

Those who are vociferous against a public program are blind to the facts. Despite their concerted defense of private programs, medical costs have gone up like clockwork in my 30 years of practice. Health care is one field where profit motive is detrimental to Americans. Besides, if you really want competition, you must support a public program as a part of it.

Research: More funds

for basic research are essential. If we can prevent or cure even a single disease like diabetes, we will save a lot. The recent lifting of the federal restrictions on the embryonic stem cell research is a step in the right direction.

Finally, this time we must counter the self-serving arguments against a public program for universal coverage, if we are to have an equitable, cost-effective system. Leaving things as they are will undermine national well-being.

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