Oct 13, 2021 review of Sierra Club Summer of Activism.

Pallone office visit-sept 3

My Clean Energy Team had earlier corresponded with Rep Frank Pallone, chair of the house Energy and Commerce Committee. My team asked for more stringent requirements, on a number of his clean energy portions of his “Clean Future Act”, released March, 2021.

I spoke to my SC on-line summer coach on whether or not I wanted a lobby action with Pallone, and she proposed I go for it. I said SURE. She sealed the deal by entering a placeholder for a lobby visit with Rep. Pallone. I was thinking of a handful of local people – some on Pallone’s side of the gerrymandered line, and some on my side of the line.

We scheduled time with Rep Pallone’s aide, Miranda Peterson who turned out to be really qualified

Area for improvement: SC did not have a single document with play-by-play description of a hosted lobby meeting. I was thinking in terms of handful of people, and before I knew it, there was a nation-wide collection of 21 people who had RSVPd to the Pallone visit.

We organized a core group of 5 – with one timekeeper/intro person- and 4 people who had “ASKS”. We each created a script, which we rehearsed. Our meeting went really smooth. Miranda, the aide, explained what was happening- Rep. Frank was squeezing his “Clean Future Act” into the restrictions of the Budget Reconcilliation Package. For instance his bill’s “Clean Energy Standard” was squeezed into the new CEPP energy standard together with the associated energy credits. And she told us the resulting new name was “Build Back Better” - so we got some inside scoop.

Members of my team felt good about the meeting. I am most IMPRESSED, as I reflect that we spoke to basically the father of the energy portions of the “Build Back Better Act”. These are the core of how the U.S. will meet Biden’s Paris Agreement goal of 50% GHG reduction by 2030 and netzero by 2050.

And a message of success for Laura Comer. My mayor came up to my RF100 booth at Middletown down (Sept18) and announced he has seen the light after 2 years of our pushing with up to 300 people, and is now talking to an energy consultant about arranging for renewable electric for all of Middletown! It looks like Middletown might be one of about 10 cities starting up Community Choice in 2022