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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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#### Energy and Environment

Governor Susana Martinez Declares State of Emergency in Response to Dog Head Wildfire ([KRWG](#)) – New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez has declared a state of emergency in response to the Dog Head Wildfire affecting portions of Bernalillo and Tarrant Counties. The Governor has also directed state agencies to offer all available resources to assist local authorities in the affected areas. “Our first priority is the health and safety of New Mexicans in the affected areas and communities,” Governor Martinez said. “I’ve directed our state agencies to offer all available resources to assist our local partners in responding to the fire, and we’ll continue to coordinate with the emergency response team to monitor the fire. Property can be replaced, but lives cannot – as our coordinated response to the fire continues, I ask New Mexicans to be mindful of this, and to not take unnecessary risks.”

EPA proposes climate rule incentives despite court hold ([The Hill](#)) – The Obama administration is moving ahead with an incentive program for its contentious climate change rule, despite the Supreme Court’s action halting the regulation. Under the program, known as the Clean Energy Incentive Program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would give states compliance credits for renewable energy and efficiency projects that are undertaken earlier than the Clean Power Plan would require them. It’s meant to be a carrot to the stick of the Clean Power Plan and to try to get some significant deployment of renewables and efficiency projects before the regulation kicks in in 2022. The basic details of the incentive program were outlined when the climate rule was made final last August, but Thursday’s announcement formally proposes more details about it. The climate rule itself, which seeks a 32 percent cut in the power sector’s carbon emissions, is under a judicial stay from the Supreme Court’s February 2016 order.

#### Transportation and Infrastructure

(Nevada) Self-driving minibus to hit streets in Las Vegas ([The Las Vegas Sun](#)) – Self-driving vehicles are coming to Las Vegas. Later this year, Arizona-based Local Motors expects to deploy an autonomous minibus in Las Vegas through a partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, state officials announced today. Local Motors, a startup known for manufacturing 3D-printed vehicles, plans to demonstrate the safety and reliability of the new vehicle, known as Olli, at UNLV and eventually deploy a fleet in the city of Las Vegas. Olli, an autonomous minibus that seats 12, could be used for public transportation or to take passengers on short rides. “Self-driving vehicles are part of a portfolio of new transportation options which are changing our approach to transit and travel,” Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said in a news release. “I’m proud to see so many local government partners share in this exciting announcement and look forward to the advancement of this partnership with Local Motors.”

Op-Ed by Gov. Scott Walker: Safety, maintenance transportation priorities ([The Fond du Lac Reporter](#)) - Good roads and bridges are important to Wisconsin and our economy. Since we took office, more than \$18 billion has been invested into our transportation system, and we increased the amount sent to local governments to help maintain their infrastructure in 2015. According to the most recent numbers available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, more than 97 percent of our most heavily traveled highways are rated in fair or above fair condition. These roads carry roughly half of all traffic and 70 percent of our freight. For me, it’s simple. A family doesn’t add a major addition to their home if they don’t see a pay raise. Instead, they use current wages to make sure their home is safe and to cover basic maintenance. The same is true with transportation.

#### Economic Development

(Alabama) New task force takes on payday loans ([AP](#)) – Gov. Robert Bentley is creating a task force responsible for identifying potential legislation that could help protect consumers from predatory lending. Bentley said in a statement Tuesday that he signed an executive order creating the Alabama Consumer Protection Task Force. The governor says predatory lending is one of the biggest problems Alabama consumers face during financial emergencies. The formation of the task force comes after the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau proposed regulations requiring that lenders prove borrowers are capable of repaying loans and more. The state also launched a database in August 2015 to improve

enforcement of a law prohibiting borrowers from taking out more than \$500 in short-term loans at once.

Gov. Snyder Forms Economy Commission to Strategize Michigan's Economic Future ([9 & 10 News](#)) – Governor Snyder is trying to push what he calls his "relentless positive action" forward with a new commission. He formed the Building the 21st Century Economic Commission Thursday to develop a long-term strategy for Michigan's economic future. It's in addition to commissions he formed for infrastructure and education. Snyder says the panel will set goals and establish a way to measure the state's economic success, identify potential for new industry growth, support existing industry and make recommendations to distinguish Michigan as an innovation center.

(Mississippi) BMW supplier Iuka announces jobs ([WTVB](#)) - "I'm not surprised at all that they are so comfortable here," said the Governor. Governor Phil Bryant was among those on hand to celebrate the arrival of Iuka to Tishomingo County. The German-based manufacturer has announced it will bring operations to town creating some 80 jobs and investing of at least one-million dollars. They are expected to start in mid-2016

(Tennessee) "Ban the Box" bill to delay criminal background questions for applicants ([WJHL](#)) – Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam recently signed a bill aimed at helping convicted felons get back into the workforce. The bill is called "Ban the Box" and it would prevent state employers from asking applicants about their criminal history early in the interview process. "With taking the box away, it gives people like me a chance to get their foot in the door. Maybe get that interview," said Travis Blevins, a Johnson City Day Reporting Center participant. The Johnson City Day Reporting Center is a place where a person at risk of re-offending completes a court ordered program. "I got caught back in 2004, and got my first felony, and that's been my only felony on my record," said Blevins. Blevins told News Channel the Day Reporting Center helped him land a job.

#### Government Reform

Legislature sending 2 ethics bills to Gov. Haley's desk ([AP](#)) – Legislators gave final approval late Wednesday to bills on officerholder income disclosure and legislative investigations, sending Gov. Nikki Haley the two ethics bills she wanted. The measures require all officeholders to report their private sources of income and mandate that complaints against South Carolina's legislators be independently investigated. Legislators in both chambers said the bills are far from perfect, but they're progress. Haley has insisted that independent investigations and income disclosure be part of ethics reform since the House Ethics Committee cleared her of allegations in 2012 that she lobbied for employers while in the House. Agreeing with her former colleagues that the state's ethics laws are too vague, she has pushed ever since to strengthen and clarify them.

#### Healthcare

Overdose deaths in NM are down ([The Deming Headlight](#)) - The New Mexico Department of Health announced that drug overdose deaths in the state decreased by nine percent last year. Preliminary mortality data from 2015 shows that the number of drug overdose deaths among New Mexicans dropped from 540 in 2014 to 492 in 2015. "The decrease in overdose deaths is encouraging, but we still have a lot of work to do," said Secretary of Health Lynn Gallagher. "We will continue working closely with the Human Services Department and our stakeholders to reduce overdose deaths in New Mexico." Drug overdose death is the leading cause of injury death in New Mexico and nationally, exceeding deaths from motor vehicle traffic crashes and falls. New Mexico has been recognized as a leader in innovative policies addressing prescription drug overdose by being one of two states that has implemented 10 out of 10 promising strategies according to the Trust for America's Health.

Senate takes step forward on opioid bill ([The Hill](#)) - The Senate on Thursday took a step toward bridging the gap with the House on legislation intended to combat the opioid epidemic. The upper chamber voted 95-1 to set up a conference committee with the House that will seek to iron out the differences between the chambers' bills. Opioid legislation is seen as one of the few areas where a bipartisan bill could be signed into law this year, given the breadth of the addiction problem and the fact that many vulnerable lawmakers have talked about the issue in their campaigns. The Senate's version of the legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), would authorize grants for educational programs, the anti-overdose drug naloxone, programs to monitor prescribing practices and other initiatives against the abuse of heroin and prescription opioid painkillers.