

## Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | February 12 - February 16, 2024

### Highlights:

In the House, the *Atomic Energy Advancement Act* ([H.R.6544](#)) passed out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and is scheduled for a vote on the House floor. Introduced by Reps. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), this bill would strengthen licensing and regulatory processes for [nuclear energy technologies](#) to accelerate their deployment.

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), alongside [bipartisan cosponsors](#), introduced the *Satellites Preventing Agricultural Crises and Emergencies (SPACE) Act* ([H.R.7362](#)). The bill would establish agreements between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and land-grant colleges and universities to share [satellite-driven](#) wildfire data and research, effectively bolstering preparedness for worsening wildfire seasons.

Reps. Eric Sorensen (D-Ill.), Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), and Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) introduced the *Securing and Understanding Our National Renewable Agriculture Yields (SUNRAY) for Energy Act* ([H.R.7391](#)). The bill would require the USDA to issue guidance for farmers seeking to implement solar energy production alongside crop production on their agricultural land. EESI's recent [article](#) on climate adaptation measures undertaken by farmers in the southwest highlights the benefits of using agricultural land to generate solar energy.

The House Agriculture Committee held a [hearing](#) to receive testimony from USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack on climate-smart initiatives within the Farm Bill, including those within its conservation programs. Sec. Vilsack also heard concerns of lawmakers seeking to ensure that farmers are not left behind in the upcoming iteration of the legislation. You can find all of EESI's resources on the Farm Bill [here](#).

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### **February 16, 2024**

#### **House:**

#### **Bills Reported:**

##### **[H.R.6544](#)**

##### **Atomic Energy Advancement Act**

Sponsor: [Duncan, Jeff \[Rep.-R-SC-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)  
Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Science, Space, and Technology; Foreign Affairs  
Latest Action: House - 02/16/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 320.

**Senate:**

No energy or climate related activity in the Senate today.

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**February 15, 2024**

**House:**

**Bills Introduced:**

**[H.R.7362](#)**

**Satellites Preventing Agricultural Crises and Emergencies (SPACE) Act**

Sponsor: [Bonamici, Suzanne \[Rep.-D-OR-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

**[H.R.7376](#)**

**To provide that a project for the collocation of a personal wireless service facility is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews.**

Sponsor: [Harshbarger, Diana \[Rep.-R-TN-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

**[H.R.7377](#)**

**To amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Hunt, Wesley \[Rep.-R-TX-38\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

### [H.R.7391](#)

#### **Securing and Understanding Our National Renewable Agriculture Yields (SUNRAY) for Energy Act**

Sponsor: [Sorensen, Eric \[Rep.-D-IL-17\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

### [H.Res.1015](#)

**Expressing support for the designation of February 17 through February 24, 2024, as "National FFA Week", recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of globally conscious leaders who will change the world, and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the "Give the Gift of Blue" program, which has donated more than 17,000 of the iconic FFA jackets to FFA members in need.**

Sponsor: [Mann, Tracey \[Rep.-R-KS-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (100)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

#### **Passed House:**

### [H.R.7176](#)

#### **Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024**

Sponsor: [Pfluger, August \[Rep.-R-TX-11\]](#) Cosponsors: (31)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/15/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

#### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN PROSPERITY AND PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS: LEGISLATION TO MODERNIZE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials* held a [hearing](#) entitled "Safeguarding American Prosperity and People's Livelihoods: Legislation to Modernize Air Quality Standards". Testimony was heard from John Eunice, Deputy Director, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources, Georgia; and public witnesses.

## **BIDENOMICS AND LAND MANAGEMENT: THE MISGUIDED NATIONAL STRATEGY TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC DECISIONS**

*Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations* held a [hearing](#) entitled “Bidenomics and Land Management: The Misguided National Strategy to Develop Environmental Economic Decisions”. Testimony was heard from Henry Wykowski, Advisor, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

### **Senate:**

No energy or climate related activity in the Senate today.

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**February 14, 2024**

### **House:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

##### **[H.R.7346](#)**

**To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Sponsor: [Underwood, Lauren \[Rep.-D-IL-14\]](#) Cosponsors: ([11](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

##### **[H.R.7348](#)**

**To interconnect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to its neighbors, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Casar, Greg \[Rep.-D-TX-35\]](#) Cosponsors: ([17](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### **Passed House:**

## [H.Res.1009](#)

**Providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.**

Sponsor: [Reschenthaler, Guy \[Rep.-R-PA-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-388](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/14/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY FROM THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. VILSACK, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

*Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee* held a [hearing](#) entitled “For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

#### **POWERED UP: STATE UTILITY REGULATORS ON CHALLENGES TO RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security* held a [hearing](#) entitled “Powered Up: State Utility Regulators on Challenges to Reliable, Affordable Electricity”. Testimony was heard from Keith Hay, Senior Director of Policy, Colorado Energy Office; Jim Huston, Chairman, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Nick Myers, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission; and Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission.

#### **LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries* held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 3119](#), to provide for the issuance of a Manatee Semipostal Stamp; [H.R. 6784](#), the “ESA Flexibility Act”; [H.R. 6854](#), the “Habitat Enhancement Now Act”; and [H.R. 7157](#), the “Strengthen Wood Product Supply Chains Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duarte, Stauber, Soto, and Fischbach; Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

#### **BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EPA REGULATIONS ON MAIN STREET**

*Committee on Small Business: Full Committee* held a [hearing](#) entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Impact of EPA Regulations on Main Street”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **Senate:**

No energy or climate related activity in the Senate today.

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**February 13, 2024**

### **House:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

##### **[H.R.7332](#)**

**To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Maloy, Celeste \[Rep.-R-UT-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/13/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

#### **Bills Reported:**

##### **[H.Res.1009](#)**

**Providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.**

Sponsor: [Reschenthaler, Guy \[Rep.-R-PA-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-388](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/14/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

#### **Committee Meetings:**

**UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024**

*Committee on Rules: Full Committee* held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 7176](#), the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9-4, a rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 7176](#), the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”. The rule provides for consideration of [H.R. 7176](#), the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duncan and Pallone.

**Senate:**

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

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**February 12, 2024**

No climate or energy related activity in the House or Senate today.