

## Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | February 26 - March 1, 2024

### Highlights:

The *Atomic Energy Advancement Act* ([H.R.6544](#)) passed the House. Introduced by Reps. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), the bipartisan bill would strengthen licensing and regulatory processes for [nuclear energy technologies](#) to accelerate their deployment.

In the House, the *Energy Emergency Leadership Act* ([H.R.3277](#)) was reported out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and is scheduled for a vote on the House floor. Introduced by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), this bipartisan bill would sharpen the Department of Energy's focus on addressing [cybersecurity issues](#) related to energy infrastructure.

Sens. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) introduced the *Legacy Mine Cleanup Act of 2024* ([S.3858](#)). The bipartisan bill aims to strengthen remediation efforts for hazardous abandoned hardrock mines by establishing a new Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains within the Environmental Protection Agency, and increasing federal funding—and access to that funding—for cleanup efforts.

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### **March 1, 2024**

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

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### **February 29, 2024**

#### **House:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

##### [H.R.7498](#)

##### **Zero-Emission Vehicles Act**

Sponsor: [Levin, Mike \[Rep.-D-CA-49\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/29/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **Bills Reported:**

#### **[H.R.3277](#)**

#### **Energy Emergency Leadership Act**

Sponsor: [Walberg, Tim \[Rep.-R-MI-5\]](#) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/29/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 331.

### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **EXAMINING THE RISK: THE DANGERS OF EV FIRES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight* held a **hearing** entitled "Examining the Risk: The Dangers of EV Fires for First Responders". Testimony was heard from Dan Munsey, Chief, Fire Department, San Bernardino County, California; and a public witness.

### **Senate:**

### **Bills Introduced:**

#### **[S.3836](#)**

#### **A bill to improve drought-related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Kennedy, John \[Sen.-R-LA\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### **[S.3838](#)**

#### **A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Hyde-Smith, Cindy \[Sen.-R-MS\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### [S.3845](#)

#### **Zero-Emission Vehicles Act**

Sponsor: [Merkley, Jeff \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### [S.3852](#)

**A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of lead ammunition on all land and water under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Duckworth, Tammy \[Sen.-D-IL\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### [S.3855](#)

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

Sponsor: [Markey, Edward J. \[Sen.-D-MA\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### [S.3856](#)

**A bill to require certain forest supervisors of units of the National Forest System to submit to the Chief of the Forest Service a harvesting improvement report, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Rounds, Mike \[Sen.-R-SD\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### [S.3858](#)

#### **Legacy Mine Cleanup Act of 2024**

Sponsor: [Kelly, Mark \[Sen.-D-AZ\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/29/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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## **February 28, 2024**

### **House:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

##### **[H.R.7468](#)**

To ensure that United States diplomats and officials of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission are able to advance efforts seeking compliance by the United Mexican States with the 1944 Treaty on Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

Sponsor: [De La Cruz, Monica \[Rep.-R-TX-15\]](#) Cosponsors: ([32](#))

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 02/28/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **Passed House:**

##### **[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

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-391](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/28/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

### **Senate:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

##### **[S.3826](#)**

A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to revise the treatment of certain resilience actions and natural disasters, to limit the issuance of new standards for criteria pollutants, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cassidy, Bill \[Sen.-R-LA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)  
Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works  
Latest Action: Senate - 02/28/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### **[S.3828](#)**

**A bill to prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.**

Sponsor: [Merkley, Jeff \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)  
Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources  
Latest Action: Senate - 02/28/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### **[S.3829](#)**

**A bill to address actions for applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Barrasso, John \[Sen.-R-WY\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)  
Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources  
Latest Action: Senate - 02/28/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### **[S.3830](#)**

**A bill to authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Padilla, Alex \[Sen.-D-CA\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)  
Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Latest Action: Senate - 02/28/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## **Committee Meetings:**

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded an **oversight hearing** to examine the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

### **GEOLOGIC HYDROGEN**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a **hearing** to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with developing geologic hydrogen in the United States, after receiving testimony from Evelyn Wang, Director,

Advanced Research Projects Agency--Energy, Department of Energy; Geoffrey S. Ellis, Energy Resources Program Lead for Geologic Hydrogen, Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and Peter Johnson, Koloma, Denver, Colorado.

## **WRDA**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee* concluded a **hearing** to examine the Water Resources Development Act, focusing on USACE water infrastructure projects, programs and priorities, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense.

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## **February 27, 2024**

### **House:**

No climate or energy related activity in the House today.

### **Senate:**

#### **Bills Introduced:**

#### **[S.3818](#)**

**A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.**

Sponsor: [Ricketts, Pete \[Sen.-R-NE\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/27/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **MICROPLASTICS IN WATER**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife,* concluded a **joint hearing** to examine

the presence of microplastics in water, after receiving testimony from Susanne M. Brander, Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences, Newport; Sherri A. Mason, Penn State University, Erie, Pennsylvania; and Brent Alspach, Arcadis, San Diego, California.

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**February 26, 2024**

**House:**

**Bills Introduced:**

**[H.R.7459](#)**

**To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to treat the District of Columbia the same as a State for purposes of such Acts, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Norton, Eleanor Holmes \[Del.-D-DC-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**[H.R.7462](#)**

**To require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study regarding insurance coverage for damages from wildfires, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Waters, Maxine \[Rep.-D-CA-43\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

**Senate:**

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.