

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | January 15 - January 19, 2024

Highlights:

Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) introduced the *Great Lakes Mapping Act* ([H.R.7020](#)). This [bipartisan](#) bill directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out high-resolution mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes by 2030, to improve understanding of the lake system's ecosystems, bolster lake-related resilience and adaptation efforts, and identify economic opportunities. This [EESI podcast episode](#) explores past federally-funded efforts to build climate resilience across the Great Lakes.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and other lead cosponsors introduced the *Critical Minerals Security Act* ([S.3631](#)). The [tripartisan](#) bill will increase data collection efforts to identify countries that are home to critical minerals and rare earth elements used in renewable energy technologies, such as EV batteries, among other technologies.

Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.) and Christopher Deluzio (D-Pa.) introduced the *Orphan Well Grant Flexibility Act* ([H.R.7053](#)). The bill will leverage some of the \$4.7 billion in funding from the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) to accelerate the plugging of harmful abandoned oil wells by removing red tape. Check out EESI's [article](#) for more on how plugging these wells benefit both the climate and the economy.

January 19, 2024

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

January 18, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7037](#)

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to exclude certain populations of the lake sturgeon from the authority of such Act.

Sponsor: [Gallagher, Mike \[Rep.-R-WI-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/18/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7039](#)

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients for eligible operating support costs of public transportation, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. \[Rep.-D-GA-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (65)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/18/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7043](#)

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Matsui, Doris O. \[Rep.-D-CA-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 01/18/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.7053](#)

Orphan Well Grant Flexibility Act

Sponsor: [Thompson, Glenn \[Rep.-R-PA-15\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/18/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7054](#)

To require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tonko, Paul \[Rep.-D-NY-20\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 01/18/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Committee Meetings:

FUELING AMERICA'S ECONOMY: LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND EXPAND U.S. PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a [hearing](#) entitled "Fueling America's Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure". Testimony was heard from Tristan Brown, Deputy Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SEC'S PROPOSED CLIMATE DISCLOSURE RULE: A FUTURE OF LEGAL HURDLES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a [hearing](#) entitled "Oversight of the SEC's Proposed Climate Disclosure Rule: A Future of Legal Hurdles". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 897](#), the "Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act"; [H.R. 3925](#), the "Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act of 2023"; [H.R. 5441](#), the "Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023"; and [H.R. 6235](#), the "Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023". Testimony was heard from Representatives Carl and LaLota; Paul M. Scholz, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

THE NEXT GENERATION: EMPOWERING AMERICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a [hearing](#) entitled "The Next Generation: Empowering American Nuclear Energy". Testimony was heard from Dan Dorman, Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Kathryn Huff, Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy; and David Ortiz, Director, Office of Electric Reliability, U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3615](#)

A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Coons, Christopher A. \[Sen.-D-DE\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/18/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.3623](#)

A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Merkley, Jeff \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 01/18/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.3627](#)

A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require a certain efficiency level for certain distribution transformers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Brown, Sherrod \[Sen.-D-OH\]](#) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/18/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.3631](#)

Critical Minerals Security Act

Sponsor: [Cornyn, John \[Sen.-R-TX\]](#) 36 Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/18/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Passed Senate:

[H.R.2872](#)

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Graves, Garret \[Rep.-R-LA-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-198](#)

Latest Action: 01/19/2024 Signed by President.

Other Committee Actions:

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items: [S. 1863](#), to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; [S. 2781](#), to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

January 17, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7003](#)

To amend the National Landslide Preparedness Act to reauthorize such Act.

Sponsor: [DelBene, Suzan K. \[Rep.-D-WA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

[H.R.7004](#)

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite.

Sponsor: [Curtis, John R. \[Rep.-R-UT-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7006](#)

To prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in such land.

Sponsor: [Curtis, John R. \[Rep.-R-UT-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7012](#)

To modify the public transportation emergency relief program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [D'Esposito, Anthony \[Rep.-R-NY-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (13)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7013](#)

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the scope of national pollutant discharge elimination system permit discharge authorizations and the expression of effluent limitations, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Duarte, John S. \[Rep.-R-CA-13\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7020](#)

The Great Lakes Mapping Act

Sponsor: [McClain, Lisa C. \[Rep.-R-MI-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (18)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7021](#)

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the procedure for the development of water quality criteria, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Owens, Burgess \[Rep.-R-UT-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7023](#)

To amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rouzer, David \[Rep.-R-NC-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7026](#)

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Stauber, Pete \[Rep.-R-MN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/17/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Committee Meetings:

THE STATE OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a [hearing](#) entitled "The State of Transportation". Testimony was heard from Stephen A. Edwards, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority; Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 1246](#), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes; [H.R. 2950](#), the "Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023"; [H.R. 5482](#), the "Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023"; [H.R. 5770](#), the "Water Data Improvement Act"; [H.R. 5874](#), to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; [H.R. 6443](#), the "Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act"; [H.R. 6474](#), to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; and [H.R. 6492](#), the "EXPLORE Act". [H.R. 1246](#), [H.R. 6443](#), and [H.R. 6474](#) were ordered reported, without amendment. [H.R. 2950](#), [H.R. 5482](#), [H.R. 5770](#), [H.R. 5874](#), and [H.R. 6492](#) were ordered reported, as amended.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3596](#)

A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite.

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

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/17/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.3606](#)

A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Padilla, Alex \[Sen.-D-CA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 01/17/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR [S150](#)).

January 16, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6994](#)

To require the reopening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Kim, Young \[Rep.-R-CA-40\]](#) (Introduced 01/16/2024) (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 01/16/2024 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7001](#)

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tiffany, Thomas P. \[Rep.-R-WI-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 01/16/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3593](#)

A bill to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rosen, Jacky \[Sen.-D-NV\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/16/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

January 15, 2024

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