

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | January 8 - January 12, 2024

Highlights:

In the Senate, the *Connect Our Parks Act* ([S.2018](#)) passed out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and will now be up for a vote on the Senate floor. Introduced by Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Angus King (I-Maine), this [bipartisan](#) bill will expand [broadband access](#) in the country's national parks. These efforts will bolster park rangers' capacity to maintain park land and improve park navigation, among other benefits.

The *Nulhegan River and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023* ([S.432](#)), introduced by Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), and *Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023* ([S.608](#)), introduced by Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), also passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and is scheduled for a full Senate vote. The bills would designate portions of the rivers as "Wild and Scenic," which would prevent them from being dammed or diverted. EESI's [article](#), "Keeping the Gila River Wild for People and the Planet," takes a closer look at the importance of this designation.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources concluded a [hearing](#) on federal incentives for electric vehicle development, with a focus on ensuring domestic manufacturing for a reliable and secure supply chain through the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA) and *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA). For more on how these laws are working to boost domestic electric vehicle manufacturing, check out EESI's [article](#) tracking IRA and IIJA investments.

January 12, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6989](#)

To amend an Act of Congress approved June 8, 1940, with respect to emergency permits for rights-of-way, and for other purposes

Sponsor: [Good, Bob \[Rep.-R-VA-5\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/12/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

January 11, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6974](#)

To direct the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to reduce rates for firm electric service customers due to shortfalls in generation from certain Bureau of Reclamation hydroelectric facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Maloy, Celeste \[Rep.-R-UT-2\]](#) (Introduced 01/11/2024) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 01/11/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Passed House:

[S.J.Res.38](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers".

Sponsor: [Rubio, Marco \[Sen.-R-FL\]](#) Cosponsors: ([6](#))

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: House - 01/11/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Committee Meetings:

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024: MEMBERS' DAY HEARING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a [hearing](#) entitled "Proposals for a Water Resources

Development Act of 2024: Members' Day Hearing". Testimony was heard from Chairman Steil, and Representatives Miller of West Virginia, Meng, Case, Higgins of Louisiana, Kaptur, Houchin, Kilmer, Newhouse, Perez, Fry, Tlaib, Luna, Budzinski, Donalds, Fletcher, Sorensen, LaLota, Costa, Mullin, Davis of North Carolina, Schrier, Miller of Illinois, Wasserman Schultz, Garbarino, Pascrell, Lee of Nevada, Moylan, Carter of Georgia, Allen, Garcia of Texas, Scott of Virginia, Soto, Sewell, and Porter.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3581](#)

A bill to direct the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to reduce rates for firm electric service customers due to shortfalls in generation from certain Bureau of Reclamation hydroelectric facilities, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/11/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine federal electric vehicle incentives including the federal government's role in fostering reliable and resilient electric vehicle supply chains, after receiving testimony from David Turk, Deputy Secretary of Energy; and Adewale Adeyemo, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

January 10, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6931](#)

To amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to improve that Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Edwards, Chuck \[Rep.-R-NC-11\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/10/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.6932](#)

To amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to require the inclusion of low-head dams in the national dam inventory, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Edwards, Chuck \[Rep.-R-NC-11\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/10/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.6937](#)

To provide for the improved collection of data for organic dairy, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Pingree, Chellie \[Rep.-D-ME-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 01/10/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Committee Meetings:

PROTECTING CLEAN AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION AND JOBS BY STOPPING EPA'S OVERREACH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a [hearing](#) entitled "Protecting Clean American Energy Production and Jobs by Stopping EPA's Overreach". Testimony was heard from Joseph Goffman, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a joint [hearing](#) entitled "National Park Service's Deferred Maintenance Backlog: Perspectives from the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General". Testimony was heard from Cardell Johnson, Director,

Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; and Mark Greenblatt, Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3576](#)

A bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Blackburn, Marsha \[Sen.-R-TN\]](#) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

MUNICIPAL BONDS AND CLIMATE RISK

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine investing in the future, focusing on safeguarding municipal bonds from climate risk, after receiving testimony from Megan Kilgore, City Auditor, Columbus, Ohio; Thomas G. Doe, Municipal Market Analytics, Inc., Concord, Massachusetts; Chris Hartshorn, Zeus AI, Arlington, Massachusetts; Matthew E. Kahn, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; and Eric M. Leeper, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

January 9, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6921](#)

Southern Farmers and Ranchers Protection Act

Sponsor: [De La Cruz, Monica \[Rep.-R-TX-15\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 01/09/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.6925](#)

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to permanently authorize the Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Porter, Katie \[Rep.-D-CA-47\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 01/09/2024 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

Senate:

Bills Reported:

[S.432](#)

Nulhegan River and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 301.

[S.608](#)

Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Markey, Edward J. \[Sen.-D-MA\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 303.

[S.1405](#)

Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Lee, Mike \[Sen.-R-UT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 305.

[S.2018](#)

Connect Our Parks Act

Sponsor: [Barrasso, John \[Sen.-R-WY\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 306.

[S.2149](#)

Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act

Sponsor: [Tester, Jon \[Sen.-D-MT\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 307.

[S.2216](#)

Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act

Sponsor: [Daines, Steve \[Sen.-R-MT\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 01/09/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 308.

January 8, 2024

House:

No climate or energy related activity in the House today.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3559](#)

A bill to repeal programs relating to funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Ernst, Joni \[Sen.-R-IA\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 01/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.