

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | June 10 - June 14, 2024

Highlights:

The House passed the *Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025* ([H.R.8070](#)), known as the NDAA. This annual “must-pass” legislation —reintroduced this year by Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and bipartisan cosponsors— sets defense policy and authorizes national security spending, including spending on [energy security, climate resilience, and pollution cleanup](#). The Senate Committee on Armed Services subsequently [considered](#) and passed its version of the bill, which will now move to the Senate floor for debate.

The House also passed the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act* ([H.R.2964/S.1350](#)), which the Senate subsequently took up. Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Mary Peltola (D-Alaska), and Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) [reintroduced](#) the bill, which would improve labeling for non-flushable products, preventing expensive damage to sewage systems and reducing trash flow into rivers and oceans.

The *Rural Small Business Resilience Act* ([H.R.7984](#)), penned by Rep. Chris Pappas (D-N.H.) and bipartisan cosponsors, passed the House. The bill aims to ensure that rural small businesses have access to emergency assistance following natural disasters. EESI’s [Congressional briefing](#), *Living with Climate Change: Integrating Equity into Emergency Management*, explores more ways to ensure that disaster funding reaches those who need it most.

Reps. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) and Marcus Molinaro (R-N.Y.) introduced the *Enteric Methane Innovation Tools for Lower Emissions and Sustainable Stock (EMIT LESS) Act* ([H.R.8676](#)), which would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to study [methane-reducing](#) conservation standards for agricultural practices, create programs to train farmers and ranchers on methane-reducing practices, create incentives for these practices through the USDA’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and [more](#). The bill’s sponsors expect the bill to be included in the [upcoming Farm Bill](#).

June 14, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8754](#)

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage practices that benefit both soil and wildlife habitat by increasing payments to producers for such practices under the environmental quality incentives program and the conservation stewardship program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Brownley, Julia \[Rep.-D-CA-26\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.8757](#)

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to support cell-cultured meat, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Davidson, Warren \[Rep.-R-OH-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (8)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.8765](#)

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Salinas, Andrea \[Rep.-D-OR-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.8769](#)

To provide financial assistance to States and Indian Tribes for the development, implementation, improvement, or expansion of a flex-tech energy program to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tonko, Paul \[Rep.-D-NY-20\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 06/14/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Passed House:

[H.R.8070](#)

Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025

Sponsor: [Rogers, Mike D. \[Rep.-R-AL-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (14)

Committees: House - Armed Services

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-529](#)

Latest Action: House - 06/14/2024 The Clerk was authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references, and to make other necessary technical and conforming corrections in the engrossment of [H.R. 8070](#).

Senate:

The Senate did not meet today.

June 13, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8726](#)

To direct the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to reduce air pollution and harmful underwater acoustic impacts and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes by recognizing voluntary reductions in the speed of vessels transiting the western coast of the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Carbajal, Salud O. \[Rep.-D-CA-24\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 06/13/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.8737](#)

To amend the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act to repeal the authority of the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Transportation to maintain an electric vehicle working group, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Ogles, Andrew \[Rep.-R-TN-5\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure; Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 06/13/2024 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and

Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

Committee Meetings:

SECURING AMERICA'S CRITICAL MATERIALS SUPPLY CHAINS AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a [hearing](#) entitled "Securing America's Critical Materials Supply Chains and Economic Leadership". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DESTROYING AMERICA'S BEST IDEA: BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS, DESECRATING NATIONAL PARK LANDS AND DAMAGING COMMUNITIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a [hearing](#) entitled "Destroying America's Best Idea: Biden's Border Crisis, Desecrating National Park Lands and Damaging Communities". Testimony was heard from Jaime Williams, Assembly Member, 59th District, New York State Assembly, Brooklyn, New York; and public witnesses.

ENVIRONMENTALISM OFF THE RAILS: HOW CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD WILL CRIPPLE THE NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a [hearing](#) entitled "Environmentalism Off the Rails: How CARB will Cripple the National Rail Network". Testimony was heard from Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California; and public witnesses.

REVENUE, RIDERSHIP, AND POST-PANDEMIC LESSONS IN PUBLIC TRANSIT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a [hearing](#) entitled "Revenue, Ridership, and Post-Pandemic Lessons in Public Transit". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 8613](#), the "NSF and USDA Interagency Research Act"; [H.R. 8665](#), the "Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act"; [H.R. 8673](#), the "Expanding Partnerships for Innovation and Competitiveness Act"; and [H.R. 8674](#), the "Milestones for Advanced Nuclear Fuel Act". [H.R. 8613](#) and [H.R. 8673](#) were ordered reported, as amended. [H.R. 8665](#) and [H.R. 8674](#) were ordered reported, without amendment.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4545](#)

A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farmworkers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Bennet, Michael F. \[Sen.-D-CO\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 06/13/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4551](#)

A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to modify the BARD Fund, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hoeven, John \[Sen.-R-ND\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 06/13/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4553](#)

A bill to ensure access to certain public land, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/13/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

BLM OVERSIGHT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight [hearing](#) to examine the Bureau of Land Management, after receiving testimony from Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

June 12, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8704](#)

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to foster enhanced coexistence between ocean users and North Atlantic right whales and other large cetacean species.

Sponsor: [Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" \[Rep.-R-GA-1\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/12/2024 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee.

[H.R.8705](#)

To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to reform the Marine Recreational Information Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/12/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.8718](#)

To conditionally prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in the Columbia Management Area, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Perez, Marie Gluesenkamp \[Rep.-D-WA-3\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/12/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.8721](#)

To amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a weatherization readiness program, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 06/12/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Committee Meetings:

CLIMATE CONTROL: DECARBONIZATION COLLUSION IN ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) INVESTING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a [hearing](#) entitled "Climate Control: Decarbonization Collusion in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Investing". Testimony was heard from Keith Ellison, Attorney General, Minnesota; and public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 1437](#), the "Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023"; [H.R. 1647](#), the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act"; [H.R. 3119](#), to provide for the issuance of a Manatee Semipostal Stamp; [H.R. 5441](#), the "Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023"; [H.R. 6395](#), the "Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023"; [H.R. 7776](#), the "Help Hoover Dam Act"; [H.R. 7872](#), the "Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act"; [H.R. 8446](#), to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes; and [H.R. 8450](#), the "Phosphate and Potash Protection Act of 2024". [H.R. 7872](#), [H.R. 7776](#), [H.R. 6395](#), [H.R. 5441](#), [H.R. 3119](#), and [H.R. 1647](#) were ordered reported, without amendment. [H.R. 8450](#), [H.R. 8446](#), and [H.R. 1437](#) were ordered reported, as amended.

Senate:

Committee Meetings:

LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a [hearing](#) to examine [S. 2156](#), to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to authorize additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts

Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, [S. 3123](#), to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, [S. 3148](#), to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah, [S. 3322](#), to allow holders of certain grazing permits to make minor range improvements and to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior respond to requests for range improvements within 30 days, [S. 3346](#), to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, [S. 3593](#), to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, [S. 3596](#), to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite, [S. 3617](#), to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, [S. 3790](#), to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, [S. 3870](#), to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to expand eligibility for certain financial assistance for the acquisition of slip-on tanker units for wildland firefighting, [S. 3985](#), to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, [S. 4310](#), to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, [S. 4424](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, to acknowledge and support the longstanding use of cultural burning by Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, [S. 4431](#), to reinstate the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, [S. 4432](#), to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, [S. 4449](#), to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in the State of Oregon as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, [S. 4451](#), to require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study on reservation systems for Federal land, [S. 4454](#), to provide for the establishment of an Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, [S. 4456](#), to amend the Granger-Thye Act to modify the maximum term for certain special use permits for housing, and [S. 4457](#), to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, after receiving testimony from Karen Kelleher, Deputy Director, State Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Troy Heithecker, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Tess Davis, Utah Assistant Attorney General, Salt Lake City.

FWS BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, after receiving testimony from Martha Williams, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

BUILDING OUR CRITICAL MINERALS WORKFORCE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety concluded a [hearing](#) to examine building our critical minerals workforce, after receiving testimony from Barbara Arnold, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Gracelin Baskaran, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.; Jon Evans, Lithium Americas Corporation, Reno and Winnemucca, Nevada; and Bill Zisch, Colorado School of Mines, Golden.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine [S. 2908](#), to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land, [S. 3263](#), to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, [S. 4000](#), to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and [S. 4442](#), to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, after receiving testimony from Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of Interior; Stephanie Bryan, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Atmore, Alabama; Andy Mejia, Lytton Rancheria of California, Windsor; Frank Whiteclay, Crow Nation of Montana, Crow Agency; and Ervin Carlson, InterTribal Buffalo Council, Rapid City, South Dakota.

June 11, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8676](#)

To reduce enteric methane emissions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Crockett, Jasmine \[Rep.-D-TX-30\]](#)

Cosponsors: [\(1\)](#)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/11/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.8682](#)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, stormwater management measures, and wastewater management measures.

Sponsor: [Huffman, Jared \[Rep.-D-CA-2\]](#)

Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 06/11/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[H.R.8685](#)

To approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Leger Fernandez, Teresa \[Rep.-D-NM-3\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/11/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.7980](#)

End Chinese Dominance of Electric Vehicles in America Act of 2024

Sponsor: [Miller, Carol D. \[Rep.-R-WV-1\]](#)

Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 06/11/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 454.

Passed House:

[H.R.7984](#)

Rural Small Business Resilience Act

Sponsor: [Pappas, Chris \[Rep.-D-NH-1\]](#)

Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Small Business

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-537](#)

Latest Action: House - 06/11/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.R.2964](#)

Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act

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

Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce | Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-447](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 06/12/2024 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a [markup](#) on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025. The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4500](#)

A bill to modify operations of the National Water Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Britt, Katie Boyd \[Sen.-R-AL\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 06/11/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.4505](#)

A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Heinrich, Martin \[Sen.-D-NM\]](#)

Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 06/11/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

[S.4507](#)

A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to make the method used by the Department of Energy for calculating electric vehicle-equivalent petroleum fuel economy more accurate, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: ([5](#))

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/11/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Passed Senate:

[S.Res.727](#)

A resolution designating June 2024 as "Great Outdoors Month".

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

Cosponsors: ([9](#))

Latest Action: Senate - 06/11/2024 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

June 10, 2024

The House and Senate did not meet today.