

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | June 3 - June 7, 2024

Highlights:

Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and Reps. Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.), Alma Adams (D-N.C.), and Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) introduced the *Capital for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Act* ([S.4441/H.R.8598](#)), which would provide new farmers and ranchers immediate access to start-up funds as they break ground on their operations. EESI's [article](#), "Growing Career Opportunities for Young People in Agriculture", addresses the financial barriers faced by first-generation farmers, young farmers, and farmers of color.

Reps. Gregory Murphy (R-N.C.) and Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) introduced the *Prevent Environmental Hazards Act* ([H.R.8637](#)) to give coastal homeowners [greater capacity](#) within the National Flood Insurance Program to prepare for the impacts of climate change, from coastal erosion to hurricanes and storm surges. Jeff Peterson, co-facilitator at the [Coastal Flood Resilience Project](#), discussed more policy solutions for coastal resilience on EESI's podcast, *The Climate Conversation*. Listen to the episode [here](#).

Sens. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduced a bill ([S.4458](#)) to reauthorize the *Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006*. This reauthorization would provide a [blanket authorization](#) for the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake projects that deliver potable water to rural communities in the western United States — as opposed to the current system of authorizing projects individually— effectively streamlining and accelerating access to clean water in rural areas.

June 7, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8656](#)

To provide for the implementation of certain recommendations from the Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

Sponsor: [Harder, Josh \[Rep.-D-CA-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture; Education and the Workforce; Oversight and Accountability; Armed Services; Energy and Commerce; Science, Space, and Technology; Transportation and Infrastructure; Small Business

Latest Action: House - 06/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Accountability, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.8665](#)

To amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to direct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in support of supercritical geothermal and closed-loop geothermal systems in supercritical various conditions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lucas, Frank D. \[Rep.-R-OK-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

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

Latest Action: House - 06/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker,

[H.R.8674](#)

To establish milestone-based development and demonstration projects relating to nuclear fuel, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Williams, Brandon \[Rep.-R-NY-22\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 06/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

[H.Res.1281](#)

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Sponsor: [Hinson, Ashley \[Rep.-R-IA-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Senate:

No environmental or energy related activity in the Senate today.

June 6, 2024

The House and Senate did not meet today.

June 5, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8624](#)

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to withdraw a final determination relating to energy efficiency standards for housing, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Biggs, Andy \[Rep.-R-AZ-5\]](#)

Cosponsors: ([7](#))

Committees: House - Financial Services; Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.8625](#)

To amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty for bicycle manufacturing components, to establish an electric bicycle production tax credit, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the U.S. Bicycle and E-Bicycle Manufacturing Initiative to make loans to support domestic investment in the manufacturing of bicycles and electric bicycles, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Blumenauer, Earl \[Rep.-D-OR-3\]](#)

Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.8632](#)

To require the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw a proposed rule relating to the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Sponsor: [Grothman, Glenn \[Rep.-R-WI-6\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.8637](#)

To make protection against damage and loss resulting from the erosion and undermining of shorelines available under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Murphy, Gregory F. \[Rep.-R-NC-3\]](#)

Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

[H.R.8640](#)

To provide for the establishment of a National Interagency Seed and Restoration Center, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Quigley, Mike \[Rep.-D-IL-5\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 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.8642](#)

To reprogram funds appropriated to the United States Postal Service for the acquisition and support of zero-emission delivery vehicles to support the hiring and retention of rural employees.

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

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Oversight and Accountability

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

[H.R.8644](#)

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 to expand eligibility for underserved community harbor projects, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Steil, Bryan \[Rep.-R-WI-1\]](#)

Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.J.Res.163](#)

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule".

Sponsor: [Balderson, Troy \[Rep.-R-OH-12\]](#)

Cosponsors: (138)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 06/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4462](#)

A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Interagency Seed and Restoration Center, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hirono, Mazie K. \[Sen.-D-HI\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S.4472](#)

A bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with respect to transitioning producers from the noninsured crop assistance program to the whole farm revenue insurance plan.

Sponsor: [Blumenthal, Richard \[Sen.-D-CT\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4480](#)

A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide to rural communities technical assistance in recovering from disasters, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.J.Res.92](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule".

Sponsor: [Capito, Shelley Moore \[Sen.-R-WV\]](#)

Cosponsors: (44)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S.J.Res.95](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments".

Sponsor: [Mullin, Markwayne \[Sen.-R-OK\]](#)

Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Committee Meetings:

CLIMATE AND INSURANCE MARKETS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine how climate is already challenging insurance markets, after receiving testimony from Glen Mulready, Oklahoma Insurance Department, Oklahoma City; Rade Musulin, Finity Consulting, Sydney, Australia; Ishita Sen, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts; E.J. Antoni, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.; and Deborah Wood, Tallahassee, Florida.

FHWA BUDGET OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight [hearing](#) to examine the budget of the Federal Highway Administration, after receiving testimony from Shailen Bhatt, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

June 4, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8611](#)

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 and the Federal Crop Insurance Act with respect to transitioning producers from the noninsurance crop assistance program to whole farm revenue insurance.

Sponsor: [Hayes, Jahana \[Rep.-D-CT-5\]](#)

Cosponsors: ([9](#))

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/04/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture

[H.R.8613](#)

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of

Agriculture and National Science Foundation mission requirements and priorities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lucas, Frank D. \[Rep.-R-OK-3\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/04/2024 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 concerned.

[H.R.8618](#)

To require the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with forest biomass combustion for electricity when developing relevant rules and regulations and to carry out a study on the impacts of the forest biomass industry, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Thompson, Bennie G. \[Rep.-D-MS-2\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 06/04/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.8603](#)

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for a Federal and State multi-entity pass accepted by one or more Federal land management agencies and one or more State land management agencies, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Collins, Mike \[Rep.-R-GA-10\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 06/04/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

POWERING AI: EXAMINING AMERICA'S ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY FUTURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a [hearing](#) entitled "Powering AI: Examining America's Energy and Technology Future". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a [hearing](#) entitled "Examining the President's FY 2025 Budget Request for the U.S. Forest Service". Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 6395](#), the *Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023*; [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*. Testimony was heard from Representative Ciscomani; Colin Williams, Mineral Resources Program Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Moffett Field, California; and public witnesses.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a [hearing](#) entitled "An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025". Testimony was heard from Rick Spinrad, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4449](#)

A bill 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, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Wyden, Ron \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/04/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S.4451

A bill 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.

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

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/04/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.4454

A bill to provide for the establishment of an Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/04/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S.4457

A bill to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cortez Masto, Catherine \[Sen.-D-NV\]](#)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/04/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.4458

A bill to reauthorize the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 06/04/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

PATHWAYS TO FARMING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade concluded a [hearing](#) to examine pathways to farming, focusing on helping the next generation of farmers, after receiving testimony from Christian Good, Christian Good Farms, Macon, Mississippi; Tessa Parks, National Farmers Union, Northfield, Minnesota; Kevin Lussier, American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, Hawthorne, Florida; and Raechel Sattazahn, Horizon Farm Credit, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

June 3, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.8598](#)

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide for a pilot program under which development loans and loan guarantees may be made to beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Strickland, Marilyn \[Rep.-D-WA-10\]](#)

Cosponsors: ([2](#))

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 06/03/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4441](#)

A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide for a pilot program under which development loans and loan guarantees may be made to beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

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

Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 06/03/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4442](#)

A bill to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tester, Jon \[Sen.-D-MT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 06/03/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

[S.4444](#)

A bill to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 06/03/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.1240](#)

Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Feenstra, Randy \[Rep.-R-IA-4\]](#)

Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Natural Resources | Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 06/03/2024 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 411.