

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | March 4 - March 8, 2024

Highlights:

This week, three FY 2024 appropriations bills ([H.R.4366](#)) were presented to the president, including the *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024*; and the *Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024*.

Also this week, the *Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act* ([S.3853](#)) passed the Senate. Sponsored by Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), the bipartisan bill would improve compensation for victims of radioactive exposure, including for those exposed to uranium mining waste and Manhattan Project waste.

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), along with 26 other cosponsors, introduced the *American High Speed Rail Act* ([H.R.7600](#)), a bill that would [invest](#) in building a national high speed rail system, including \$41 billion in annual funding for high and higher speed rail.

Finally, the Environment Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing titled [Winning in Weather: U.S. Competitiveness in Forecasting and Modeling](#). EESI's recent [briefing](#), *Innovations in Weather Forecasting for a Changing Climate*, explores how effective forecasting and communication can help communities predict and prepare for extreme weather events.

March 8, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7595](#)

To amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act to provide for further transparency of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Cohen, Steve \[D-TN-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 03/08/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.7600](#)

To amend chapter 261 of title 49, United States Code, to provide for high-speed rail corridor development, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Moulton, Seth \[D-MA-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (26)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 03/08/2024 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.7601](#)

To amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit the use of the authorities under title I and title III of such Act for electric vehicles or related technologies.

Sponsor: [Rep. Perry, Scott \[R-PA-10\]](#)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 03/08/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

[H.R.7602](#)

To amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit the President from making provision for the purchase of solar panels under the authority of such Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Perry, Scott \[R-PA-10\]](#)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 03/08/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Presented to President

[H.R.4366](#)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024

Sponsor: [Rep. Carter, John R. \[R-TX-31\]](#)

Committees: House - Appropriations

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 118-122

Latest Action: 03/08/2024 Presented to President

Senate:

Passed Senate:

[S.3853](#)

Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act

Sponsor: [Sen. Hawley, Josh \[R-MO\]](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 03/08/2024 Message on Senate action sent to the House.

March 7, 2024

House:

Bills Reported:

[H.R.2925](#)

Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024

Sponsor: [Amodei, Mark E. \[Rep.-R-NV-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/07/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 342.

Committee Meetings:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 1584](#), the ``Plum Island National Monument Act"; [H.R. 1647](#), the ``Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act"; [H.R. 3047](#), the ``Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023"; [H.R. 3173](#), the ``Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023"; [H.R. 6852](#), the ``Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act"; and [H.R. 7332](#), the ``Utah State Parks Adjustment Act". Testimony was heard from Representatives Amodei, Espaillat, Crane, LaLota, and Maloy; Mike Reynolds, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Greg Smith, Associate Deputy Chief--National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Daryl Seymore, Supervisor, Navajo County, Arizona; Scott Strong, Director, Division of State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Utah; Bryce Shields, District Attorney, Pershing County, Nevada; and public witnesses.

MONETIZING NATURE AND LOCKING UP PUBLIC LAND: THE IMPLICATIONS OF BIDEN'S STRATEGY FOR NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a [hearing](#) entitled "Monetizing Nature and Locking up Public Land: The Implications of Biden's Strategy for Natural Capital Accounting". Testimony was heard from Marlo Oaks, State Treasurer, Utah; and public witnesses.

Senate:

No environmental or energy related activity in the Senate today.

March 6, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7570](#)

To rescind unobligated funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Sponsor: [Ogles, Andrew \[Rep.-R-TN-5\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Oversight and Accountability

Latest Action: House - 03/06/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

[H.J.Res.117](#)

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter".

Sponsor: [Allen, Rick W. \[Rep.-R-GA-12\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 03/06/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.Res.1064](#)

Recognizing the role and responsibilities of Texas operating the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and condemning any action to federalize the Texas electricity markets.

Sponsor: [Weber, Randy K. \[Rep.-R-TX-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 03/06/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Committee Meetings:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 7408](#), the “America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman; Matthew Strickler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Austin Booth, Director, Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 6482](#), the “Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act”; [H.R. 7370](#), the “Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act”; [H.R. 7375](#), to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes; [H.R. 7377](#), the “Royalty Resiliency Act”; [H.R. 7409](#), the “Harnessing Energy at Thermal Sources Act”; and [H.R. 7422](#), the “Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ocasio-Cortez, Hageman, Fulcher, Hunt, and Curtis; Benjamin E. Grubery, Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

WINNING IN WEATHER: U.S. COMPETITIVENESS IN FORECASTING AND MODELING

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a [hearing](#) entitled “Winning in Weather: U.S. Competitiveness in Forecasting and Modeling”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a [markup](#) on legislation on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes washers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes. Legislation on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act was ordered reported, as amended. Legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes washers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes were forwarded to the full committee without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a [markup](#) on legislation on the Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024. Legislation on the Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3888](#)

A bill to mandate the use of artificial intelligence by Federal agencies to adapt to extreme weather, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Schatz, Brian \[Sen.-D-HI\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 03/06/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Committee Meetings:

CONSUMER PACKAGING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine extended producer responsibility policies for consumer packaging, after receiving testimony from Erin Simon, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C.; H. Fisk Johnson, S. C. Johnson and Son, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin; and Dan Felton, AMERIPEN, Springfield, Massachusetts.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine global food security, after receiving testimony from Dina Esposito, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security, United States Agency for International Development; and Cary Fowler, Special Envoy for Global Food Security, Department of State.

March 5, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7522](#)

To amend the America's Conservation Enhancement Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake WILD program.

Sponsor: [Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" \[Rep.-D-VA-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Transportation and Infrastructure
Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7529](#)

To amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

Sponsor: [Sarbanes, John P. \[Rep.-D-MD-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.7544](#)

To prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Maloy, Celeste \[Rep.-R-UT-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 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.7556](#)

To establish a working group to coordinate regulatory oversight of liquefied natural gas facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Weber, Randy K. \[Rep.-R-TX-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7558](#)

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Wittman, Robert J. \[Rep.-R-VA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.5616](#)

BRIDGE Production Act of 2023

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

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 333.

Passed House:

[H.R.3277](#)

Energy Emergency Leadership Act

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

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-402](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 03/06/2024 Received in the Senate.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3865](#)

A bill to require rental car companies to allow customers to terminate a rental car agreement if they would otherwise be forced to rent an electric motor vehicle against their wishes.

Sponsor: [Cotton, Tom \[Sen.-R-AR\]](#) Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 03/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.3866](#)

A bill to require the imposition of additional duties with respect to imports of green energy goods that originate in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hawley, Josh \[Sen.-R-MO\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 03/05/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.