

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | November 13 - November 17, 2023

Highlights:

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.), alongside Democratic cosponsors, reintroduced the *Climate Displaced Persons Act* ([S.3340/H.R.6455](#)). This bicameral bill establishes new protections for people displaced by climate disasters abroad, as well as immigration pathways to the United States.

Reps. Zachary Nunn (R-Iowa), Nikki Budzinski (D-Ill.), and Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis.) introduced the *Agricultural Biorefinery Innovation and Opportunity (Ag BIO) Act* ([H.R.6413](#)). The bill increases grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bolster innovations in [biofuels](#) and other bioproducts.

Sens. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) and Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.) introduced the *Supporting Trucking Efficiency and Emission Reductions (STEER) Act* ([S.3315](#)). The bipartisan bill establishes a voucher program to make emissions reduction technologies for Class 8 trucks more accessible and affordable. EESI's related [fact sheet](#) discusses the benefits and feasibility of semi-truck fleet electrification.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works concluded a [hearing](#) on the climate and economic benefits of industrial decarbonization, as well as opportunities to grow the sector. The industrial sector, including the production of building materials, is responsible for a large portion of carbon dioxide emissions. EESI's article, [Achieving Sustainability in the Built Environment, Brick by Brick](#), explores ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from building materials.

November 17, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6443](#)

To take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California Tribe, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Issa, Darrell E. \[Rep.-R-CA-48\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/17/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.6446](#)

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish an education program on unleaded aviation gasoline, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cartwright, Matt \[Rep.-D-PA-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (12)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 11/17/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[H.R.6447](#)

To prohibit certain actions with respect to certain marine reef species, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Case, Ed \[Rep.-D-HI-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Ways and Means; Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 11/17/2023 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.6449](#)

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

Sponsor: [Menendez, Robert \[Rep.-D-NJ-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/17/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.6455](#)

Climate Displaced Persons Act

Sponsor: [Velazquez, Nydia M. \[Rep.-D-NY-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs; Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 11/17/2023 Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

November 16, 2023

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

November 15, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6420](#)

To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish within the Mount Hood National Forest in the State of Oregon Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Blumenauer, Earl \[Rep.-D-OR-3\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/15/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.6421](#)

To prohibit the Secretary of Energy from enforcing energy efficiency standards applicable to manufactured housing, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Bucshon, Larry \[Rep.-R-IN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: ([11](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/15/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.6438](#)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expensing of environmental remediation costs.

Sponsor: [Sherrill, Mikie \[Rep.-D-NJ-11\]](#) Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 11/15/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[H.R.6441](#)

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, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Vasquez, Gabe \[Rep.-D-NM-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/15/2023 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, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

[H.R.6442](#)

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to ensure full pool levels of Flathead Lake in Montana in accordance with certain requirements, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Zinke, Ryan K. \[Rep.-R-MT-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/15/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on [H.R. 524](#), to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; [H.R. 1727](#), the "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act"; [H.R. 2437](#), to revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes; [H.R. 2882](#), the "Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023"; [H.R. 4094](#), the "Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act"; [H.R. 5509](#), the "Electronic Permitting Modernization Act"; and [H.R. 6070](#), to amend the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 to clarify the authority of Department of Defense to conduct certain military activities at the Nevada test and training range, and for other purposes. [H.R. 2437](#), [H.R. 524](#), [H.R. 1727](#), [H.R. 2882](#), [H.R. 5509](#), and [H.R. 6070](#) were ordered reported, as amended. [H.R. 4094](#) was ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a

markup on....[H.R. 5903](#), to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to wastewater treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes; [H.R. 1586](#), the “Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023”; [H.R. 5473](#), the “Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2023”;[H.R. 6254](#), the “Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023”;[H.R. 6317](#), to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to submit a report describing a process for seeking public comment about proposed changes to mandatory design standards for public buildings, and for other purposes;[H.R. 6278](#), the “Maximizing Office Value and Efficiency Act of 2023”; and [H.R. 6276](#), the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”. [H.R. 5903](#), [H.R. 1586](#), and [H.R. 5473](#) were ordered reported, as amended. [H.R. 6254](#), and [H.R. 6317](#) were ordered reported, without amendment.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3309](#)

A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide rural partnership program grants and rural partnership technical assistance grants, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Casey, Robert P., Jr. \[Sen.-D-PA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.3310](#)

A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish within the Mount Hood National Forest in the State of Oregon Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Wyden, Ron \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.3315](#)

Supporting Trucking Efficiency and Emission Reductions (STEER) Act

Sponsor: [Peters, Gary C. \[Sen.-D-MI\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.3322

A bill 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, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Barrasso, John \[Sen.-R-WY\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.3331

A bill to establish an intermodal transportation infrastructure pilot program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Warner, Mark R. \[Sen.-D-VA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S.3340

Climate Displaced Persons Act

Sponsor: [Markey, Edward J. \[Sen.-D-MA\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations

Latest Action: Senate - 11/15/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Committee Meetings:

INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine opportunities in industrial decarbonization, focusing on delivering benefits for the economy and the climate, after receiving testimony from Leah Ellis, Sublime Systems, Somerville, Massachusetts; and Abigail Regitsky, Breakthrough Energy, and Shannon Angielski, Clean Hydrogen Future Coalition, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills: [S. 1898](#), to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make

improvements to that Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and [S. 2088](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

November 14, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6395](#)

To amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials.

Sponsor: [Curtis, John R. \[Rep.-R-UT-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.6399](#)

To require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.

Sponsor: [Bonamici, Suzanne \[Rep.-D-OR-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.6411](#)

To encourage the research and use of innovative materials and associated techniques in the construction and preservation of the domestic transportation and water infrastructure system, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Magaziner, Seth \[Rep.-D-RI-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

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

Latest Action: House - 11/14/2023 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such.

H.R.6413

Agricultural Biorefinery Innovation and Opportunity (Ag BIO) Act

Sponsor: [Nunn, Zachary \[Rep.-R-IA-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Committee Meetings:

CLEAN POWER PLAN 2.0: EPA'S EFFORT TO JEOPARDIZE RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR STATES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a [hearing](#) entitled Clean Power Plan 2.0: EPA's Effort to Jeopardize Reliable and Affordable Energy for States. Testimony was heard from L. David Glatt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality, North Dakota; Chris Parker, Director, Division of Public Utilities, Utah; Michelle Walker Owenby, Director, Division of Air Pollution Control, Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee; and Serena McIlwain, Secretary of the Environment, Maryland.

EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S ABANDONED MINE LANDS AND ACTIVE MINING PROGRAMS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a [hearing](#) entitled Examining the Biden Administration's Abandoned Mine Lands and Active Mining Programs. Testimony was heard from Glenda Owens, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior; Kyle Wendtland, Administrator, Land Quality Division, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; Dustin Morin, Director, Mining and Reclamation Division, Alabama Department of Labor; Benjamin McCament, Chief, Division of Mineral Resources Management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and a public witness.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 4219](#), the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act"; [H.R. 5770](#), the Water Data Improvement Act; [H.R. 6107](#), the Urban Canal Modernization Act; and [H.R. 6127](#), the MAPWaters Act. Testimony was heard from Chairman Graves of Missouri, and Representatives Neguse, Simpson, and Moore of Utah; Mike Wech, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 4235](#), the Wildfire Technology DEMO Act; [H.R. 4353](#), the Civilian Conservation

Center Enhancement Act of 2023; [H.R. 4717](#), the Locally Led Restoration Act of 2023; [H.R. 5582](#), the White Oak Resilience Act; [H.R. 5665](#), the Promoting Accessibility on Federal Lands Act of 2023; [H.R. 6070](#), to amend the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 to clarify the authority of Department of Defense to conduct certain military activities at the Nevada test and training range, and for other purposes; and legislation on the BIOCHAR Act. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, and Representatives Kim of California, Salinas, Lamborn, Stansbury, and Amodei; Dwayne McFall, Commissioner, District 3, Fremont County, Colorado; Jim Topoleski, Division Chief, Air and Wildland Division, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Redlands, California; Jeff Rupert, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior; Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Edwin Oshiba, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of the Air Force; and public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 5923](#), the Iran-China Energy Sanctions Act of 2023; [H.R. 6365](#), the Stopping Illicit Oil Shipments Act of 2023. [H.R. 5921](#), [H.R. 5923](#), [H.R. 6245](#), [H.R. 6323](#), [H.R. 6322](#), [H.R. 5945](#), [H.R. 6000](#), [H.R. 6015](#), [H.R. 6367](#), [H.R. 6370](#), and [H.R. 6365](#) were ordered reported, as amended.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3292](#)

A bill to encourage the research and use of innovative materials and associated techniques in the construction and preservation of the domestic transportation and water infrastructure system, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Whitehouse, Sheldon \[Sen.-D-RI\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 11/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S.3300](#)

A bill to require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.

Sponsor: [Wyden, Ron \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)
Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Latest Action: Senate - 11/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.3301](#)

A bill to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lujan, Ben Ray \[Sen.-D-NM\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)
Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources
Latest Action: Senate - 11/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Committee Meetings:

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine innovation in American agriculture, focusing on leveraging technology and artificial intelligence, after receiving testimony from J. Mason Earles, University of California AI Institute for Next-Generation Food Systems, Davis; Sanjeev Krishnan, S2G Ventures, Chicago, Illinois; Jose-Marie Griffiths, Dakota State University, Madison, South Dakota; Jahmy Hindman, Deer and Company, Moline, Illinois; and Todd J. Janzen Janzen Schroeder Agricultural Law LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND MIGRATION CORRIDORS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, concluded a [hearing](#) to examine challenges and opportunities to facilitate wildlife movement and improve migration corridors, after receiving testimony from Charlton Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, Sacramento; Richard King, Wyoming Department of Fish and Game, Chief Game Warden, Cheyenne; and Madeleine West, Center for Public Lands, Washington, D.C.

November 13, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.6365](#)

Stopping Illicit Oil Shipments Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Waters, Maxine \[Rep.-D-CA-43\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 11/13/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

[H.R.6368](#)

To assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land.

Sponsor: [LaMalfa, Doug \[Rep.-R-CA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/13/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.6372](#)

To amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct research on how quantum information science, technology, and engineering can enhance the resilience and security of the electric grid, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Babin, Brian \[Rep.-R-TX-36\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 11/13/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

[H.R.6393](#)

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Waltz, Michael \[Rep.-R-FL-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/13/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.