

## Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | November 6 - November 10, 2023

### Highlights:

Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Reps. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) and María Salazar (R-Fla.) reintroduced the *National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience for Security (NCARS) Act* ([S.3261/H.R.6311](#)). This bipartisan, bicameral bill will strengthen the federal response to climate threats by establishing a comprehensive National Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and an Implementation Plan. Check out EESI's [article](#) highlighting the 2022 version of the bill and the need for a national adaptation strategy.

Reps. Jennifer McClellan (D-Va.) and Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) introduced the *Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act* ([H.R.6232](#)). The bill aims to improve soil carbon sequestration efforts by filling gaps in research and monitoring. EESI's latest Farm Bill in Focus briefing, [Climate-Smart Research for the Farms of the Future](#), highlights other federal research initiatives to bolster climate change mitigation through soil carbon sequestration.

Reps. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), and John Sarbanes (D-Md.) reintroduced the *TREES Act* ([H.R.6348](#)). The bill will leverage tree planting to increase energy efficiency and decrease energy costs for homeowners, and mitigate the impacts of climate-induced heat.

Reps. Yadira Caraveo (D-Colo.) and Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa) introduced the *Future Funding for Agricultural Research, Mentorship, and Education Reauthorization (Future FARMER) Act* ([H.R.6292](#)). The bill will address issues of an aging agricultural workforce by strengthening federal pipelines introducing students and young people to farming. EESI's article, [Growing Career Opportunities for Young People in Agriculture](#), highlights solutions to challenges that hinder new farmers' entry into the agricultural workforce.

### **November 10, 2023**

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

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### **November 9, 2023**

## House:

### Bills Introduced:

#### [H.R.6326](#)

**To amend the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act to reduce regulatory costs for advanced nuclear reactor application reviews, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Bucshon, Larry \[Rep.-R-IN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### [H.R.6346](#)

**To update oversight and inspection practices of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Lesko, Debbie \[Rep.-R-AZ-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### [H.R.6348](#)

**To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Matsui, Doris O. \[Rep.-D-CA-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### [H.R.6351](#)

**To establish the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to modernize the data collection and reporting processes of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Moore, Barry \[Rep.-R-AL-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

#### [H.R.6352](#)

**To transfer a portion of the firearms transfer tax imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund and the Conservation of America's Wildlife Trust Fund, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Moore, Blake D. \[Rep.-R-UT-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Ways and Means; Judiciary; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

### **[H.Res.856](#)**

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that southwest Florida is an economic, demographic, agricultural, and environmental treasure with many inherent benefits that should be recognized, acknowledged, and appreciated.**

Sponsor: [Donalds, Byron \[Rep.-R-FL-19\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Oversight and Accountability

Latest Action: House - 11/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

## **Senate:**

### **Bills Introduced:**

### **[S.3270](#)**

**A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish a budgetary Tribal Government consultation process at the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Rounds, Mike \[Sen.-R-SD\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 11/09/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### **[S.3277](#)**

**A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to reauthorize the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.**

Sponsor: [Sullivan, Dan \[Sen.-R-AK\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 11/09/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### [S.3289](#)

**A bill to ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Sullivan, Dan \[Sen.-R-AK\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 11/09/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **COAL MINE LAND RECLAMATION AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine the implementation of federal coal mine land reclamation and abandoned coal mine land economic revitalization programs, after receiving testimony from Glenda H. Owens, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior; Rob Rice, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Division of Land Restoration Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Director, Charleston; and Don Newton, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Abandoned Mine Land Division Administrator, Cheyenne.

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**November 8, 2023**

**House:**

### **Bills Introduced:**

#### [H.R.6285](#)

**To ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Stauber, Pete \[Rep.-R-MN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

### [H.R.6292](#)

#### **Future Funding for Agricultural Research, Mentorship, and Education Reauthorization (Future FARMER) Act**

Sponsor: [Caraveo, Yadira \[Rep.-D-CO-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

### [H.R.6303](#)

#### **To assess and improve the competitiveness of United States nuclear commerce, to expedite Department of Energy review of certain nuclear technology exports, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Johnson, Bill \[Rep.-R-OH-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.6304](#)

#### **To increase coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program for costs of compliance, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [LaLota, Nick \[Rep.-R-NY-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

### [H.R.6311](#)

#### **To require the Federal Government to produce a national adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Salazar, Maria Elvira \[Rep.-R-FL-27\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### [H.R.6314](#)

#### **To expand the authorization of voluntary Federal grazing permit retirement, provide increased flexibility for Federal grazing permittees, promote the equitable resolution or avoidance of conflicts on Federal lands managed by the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Smith, Adam \[Rep.-D-WA-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

### **Passed House:**

#### **[H.R.1722](#)**

#### **Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023**

Sponsor: [Salinas, Andrea \[Rep.-D-OR-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/08/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

### **Committee Meetings:**

#### **BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REGULATIONS ON AMERICA'S JOB CREATORS**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a [hearing](#) entitled Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Effects of Department of Energy Regulations on America's Job Creators. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **Other Committee Actions:**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 1121](#), the Protecting American Energy Production Act; [H.R. 4385](#), the Drought Preparedness Act; [H.R. 6008](#), to prohibit the implementation of certain documents until the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service issues documents relating to the Rice's whale; and [H.J. Res. 96](#), the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023. [H.R. 1121](#), [H.R. 4385](#), and [H.J. Res. 96](#) were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. [H.R. 6008](#) was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 6093](#), the Weather Act Reauthorization. [H.R. 6093](#) was ordered reported, as amended.

### **Senate:**

## **Bills Introduced:**

### **[S.3253](#)**

**A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require research and development on frost or cold weather insurance, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Rubio, Marco \[Sen.-R-FL\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 11/08/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### **[S.3261](#)**

**A bill to require the Federal Government to produce a national adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Coons, Christopher A. \[Sen.-D-DE\]](#) Cosponsors: ([8](#))

Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 11/08/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## **Passed Senate:**

### **[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: Senate - 11/08/2023 Passed Senate without amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 50 - 48.

## **Committee Meetings:**

### **CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine accessing clean water infrastructure assistance, focusing on small, rural, disadvantaged and underserved communities, after receiving testimony from Shellie R. Chard, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Division Director, Oklahoma City; Olga Morales-Pate, Rural Community Assistance Partnership Incorporated, Washington, D.C.; and John J. Byrum II, Nueces River Authority, Uvalde,

Texas.

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**November 7, 2023**

**House:**

**Bills Introduced:**

**[H.R.6253](#)**

**To authorize the Secretary of Energy to make awards to cover regulatory costs relating to licensing certain first-of-a-kind advanced nuclear reactors.**

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

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/07/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**[H.R.6265](#)**

**To direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to update the mission statement of the Commission to ensure licensing and regulation is efficient and is in alignment with the policies stated in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Duncan, Jeff \[Rep.-R-SC-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/07/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**[H.R.6268](#)**

**To enable timely licensing reviews for nuclear reactor facilities at brownfield sites and retired fossil fuel sites, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Guthrie, Brett \[Rep.-R-KY-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/07/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**[H.R.6271](#)**

**To amend certain agricultural laws with respect to the definition of biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Miller, Max L. \[Rep.-R-OH-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (8)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 11/07/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.



## **Other Committee Actions:**

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H. Res. 683](#), expressing support for the diplomatic relations required to encourage the Government of Mexico to fulfill its water deliveries on an annual basis to the United States under the treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding the utilization of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

### **ENSURING THAT 'WOKE' DOESN'T LEAVE AMERICANS BROKE: PROTECTING SENIORS AND SAVERS FROM ESG ACTIVISM**

*Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee* held a [hearing](#) entitled "Ensuring That Woke' Doesn't Leave Americans Broke: Protecting Seniors and Savers from ESG Activism". Testimony was heard from Marlo Oaks, State Treasurer, Utah; and public witnesses.

## **Senate:**

### **Bills Introduced:**

#### **[S.3246](#)**

**A bill to provide for consideration of all modes of transportation and all road users in certain highway and transit programs, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Fetterman, John \[Sen.-D-PA\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 11/07/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### **Committee Meetings:**

### **ROADWAY SAFETY**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure* concluded a [hearing](#) to examine causes of roadway safety challenges and possible interventions, after receiving testimony from Karin Mongeon, North Dakota Department of Transportation Highway Safety Division Director, Bismarck; Karina Ricks, Cityfi, LLC, Washington, D.C.; and Brenda Neville, Iowa Motor Truck Association, Des Moines, on behalf of the American Trucking Associations.

### **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion* concluded a [hearing](#) to examine sustainable tourism for a thriving economy, after receiving testimony from Julie W. Regan, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Stateline, Nevada; Jean Garris Hand, Hilton, McLean, Virginia; and Amy Allison, Made By Mountains Partnership, Asheville, North Carolina.

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**November 6, 2023**

**House:**

**Bills Introduced:**

**H.R.6232**

**Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act**

Sponsor: [McClellan, Jennifer L. \[Rep.-D-VA-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

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

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the.

**H.R.6233**

**To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [LaHood, Darin \[Rep.-R-IL-16\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**H.R.6235**

**To amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.**

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

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

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 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, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the.

### **H.R.6236**

**To streamline nuclear technology regulatory permitting and licensing, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Allen, Rick W. \[Rep.-R-GA-12\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **H.R.6252**

**To direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to submit a report and conduct a rulemaking on facilitating efficient, timely environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Weber, Randy K., Sr. \[Rep.-R-TX-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **Passed House:**

### **H.R.359**

**Fort San Gerónimo Preservation Act**

Sponsor: [González-Colón, Jenniffer \[Resident Commissioner-R-PR-At Large\]](#)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

### **H.R.1607**

**To clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Schweikert, David \[Rep.-R-AZ-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 11/06/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

### **Senate:**

## **Bills Introduced:**

### **[S.3230](#)**

**A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.**

Sponsor: [Fischer, Deb \[Sen.-R-NE\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 11/06/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## **Bills Reported:**

### **[S.306](#)**

**Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023**

Sponsor: [Padilla, Alex \[Sen.-D-CA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 11/06/2023 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 236.

## **Passed Senate:**

### **[S.Res.396](#)**

**A resolution designating the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week".**

Sponsor: [Coons, Christopher A. \[Sen.-D-DE\]](#) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: Senate - Judiciary

Latest Action: Senate - 11/06/2023 Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.