

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | October 2- 6, 2023

Highlights:

Reps. Brad Finstad (R-Minn.) and Angie Craig (D-Minn.) introduced the *USDA Express Loan Act* ([H.R.5877](#)). The bill expedites the borrowing process for farmers and ranchers, allowing them quicker access to capital to finance their operations. EESI's article, [Growing Career Opportunities for Young People in Agriculture](#), explores solutions to financial challenges often faced by new and disadvantaged farmers.

Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced the bicameral *Soil Conservation And Regeneration Education (Soil CARE) Act* ([S.3023](#)), which establishes a training program to inform farmers and ranchers about the latest research, technologies, and practices for boosting soil health on their lands. The House is expected to introduce the bill in the coming week..

Sens. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Jeff Merkley, (D-Ore.), and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) introduced two bicameral bills facilitating U.S. renewable energy production. The *Comprehensive Legislation for Expanding and Advancing Nonrestrictive (CLEAN) Energy Act* ([S.3025/H.R.4916](#)) repeals a requirement within the *Inflation Reduction Act* that an onshore oil or gas lease sale be held within 120 days prior to approving an onshore solar or wind project. The *Nonrestrictive Offshore Wind (NOW) Act* ([S.3026/H.R.4936](#)) repeals a similar requirement regarding the sale of offshore oil and gas leases and the issuance of offshore wind leases.

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation concluded a [hearing](#) on implementation and oversight of the *Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act* ([P.L.117-167](#)). Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), the bill's sponsor, recently met with EESI to discuss how the bipartisan law bolsters both climate policy and national security. Listen to the podcast episode [here](#).

October 6, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[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.

Sponsor: [Napolitano, Grace F. \[Rep.-D-CA-31\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Latest Action: 10/06/2023 Introduced in House

[H.Res.767](#)

Expressing support for the designation of the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week".

Sponsor: [Thompson, Mike \[Rep.-D-CA-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Latest Action: 10/06/2023 Introduced in House

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

October 5, 2023

House:

No climate or energy related activity in the House today.

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

October 4, 2023

House:

No climate or energy related activity in the House today.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

S.3023

A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain a training program for Department of Agriculture personnel and third-party providers on the rapidly evolving methodologies, science, and practices of biological soil health management systems on agricultural land, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S.3025

A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on onshore wind and solar.

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.3026

A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.3027

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified fuel cell property.

Sponsor: [Carper, Thomas R. \[Sen.-D-DE\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.3033

A bill to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Heinrich, Martin \[Sen.-D-NM\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)
Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources
Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.3036](#)

A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lee, Mike \[Sen.-R-UT\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)
Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources
Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[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 - 10/04/2023 Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. ([All Actions](#))

Passed Senate:

[S.Res.398](#)

A resolution designating the week of September 25 through September 29, 2023, as "National Clean Energy Week".

Sponsor: [Collins, Susan M. \[Sen.-R-ME\]](#) Cosponsors: (18)
Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

[S.Res.399](#)

A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 1 through October 7, 2023, as "National 4-H Week".

Sponsor: [Boozman, John \[Sen.-R-AR\]](#) Cosponsors: (33)
Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

[S.Res.404](#)

A resolution designating October 4, 2023, as "Energy Efficiency Day" in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies.

Sponsor: [Shaheen, Jeanne \[Sen.-D-NH\]](#) Cosponsors: (22)

Latest Action: Senate - 10/04/2023 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

Committee Meetings:

CHIPS AND SCIENCE IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine CHIPS and Science implementation and oversight, after receiving testimony from Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce; and Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, National Science Foundation.

October 3, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

H.R.5874

To amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program.

Sponsor: [Ciscomani, Juan \[Rep.-R-AZ-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 10/03/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.5877

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to create the USDA Express Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loan programs, enabling faster access to credit for America's farmers and ranchers.

Sponsor: [Finstad, Brad \[Rep.-R-MN-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 10/03/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5881](#)

To adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Schiff, Adam B. \[Rep.-D-CA-30\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 10/03/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Passed House:

[H.Res.756](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Reschenthaler, Guy \[Rep.-R-PA-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Latest Action: House - 10/03/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Other Committee Actions:

[H.R.4394](#)

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024

Sponsor: [Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" \[Rep.-R-TN-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Appropriations

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-126](#)

Latest Action: House - 10/03/2023 Rules Committee Resolution [H. Res. 756](#) Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of [H.R. 4394](#) and [H.R. 4364](#). The resolution provides for consideration of [H.R. 4394](#) and [H.R. 4364](#). Resolution provides for consideration of [H.R. 4394](#), under a structured rule..

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate.

October 2, 2023

House:

Bills Reported:

[H.R.3557](#)

American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" \[Rep.-R-GA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Natural Resources; Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 10/02/2023 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 192.

Committee Meetings:

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024**

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 4394](#), the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9-4, a rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 4394](#), the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”. The rule provides for consideration of [H.R. 4394](#), the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 3 and pro forma amendments described in section 4. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution are waived. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as

read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The rule provides one motion to recommit.

Senate:

No environmental or energy related activity in the Senate today.