

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | September 11 - 15, 2023

Highlights:

In the House, Reps. Mike Flood (R-Neb.) and Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) introduced a bill ([H.R.5459](#)) to prioritize workforce development in precision agriculture within research and extension programs. For more on research opportunities under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and related agricultural extension programs, watch EESI's latest Farm Bill [briefing](#), *Climate-Smart Research for the Farms of the Future*.

Last week, the House passed three bills related to forest management and wildfire risk mitigation. Check out EESI's Living with Climate Change [briefing](#) for more information on policy solutions to the country's increasing wildfire threat.

The *Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act* ([H.R.1450](#)) passed the House with bipartisan support. Reintroduced by Reps. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho) and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.), the bill expands the capacity of tribes and counties to reinvest revenue from timber sales into wilderness restoration and management projects, such as those to mitigate wildfire risks. A companion bill ([S.697](#)) has also been introduced in the Senate.

House Democrats and Republicans also passed the *Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023* ([H.R.3389](#)). Introduced by Reps. David Valadao (R-Calif.) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.), the bill paves the way for the adoption of new, advanced technologies to fight wildfires in the United States. The bill is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Finally, the *Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions (ACRES) Act* ([H.R.1567](#)), introduced by Reps. Thomas Tiffany (R-Wis.) and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), would require the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to report on wildfire mitigation-related land management activities.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a [hearing](#) examining the impacts of extreme heat and weather on transportation workers, users, and infrastructure. Members and witnesses also highlighted programs within the *Inflation Reduction Act* and the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* that are working to build community resilience to the impacts of extreme heat and weather.

September 14, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.5457](#)

To support carbon dioxide removal research and development, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tonko, Paul \[Rep.-D-NY-20\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

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

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.5459](#)

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension initiative research and extension on precision agriculture workforce development, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Flood, Mike \[Rep.-R-NE-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5466](#)

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the definition of eligible land for the purposes of the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Balint, Becca \[Rep.-D-VT-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5482](#)

To prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy.

Sponsor: [Hageman, Harriet M. \[Rep.-R-WY-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (12)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Energy and Commerce; Agriculture; Budget; Rules

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.5483](#)

To promote water supply reliability and improved water management for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Harder, Josh \[Rep.-D-CA-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.5487](#)

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Huffman, Jared \[Rep.-D-CA-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.5490](#)

To amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Kiggans, Jennifer A \[Rep.-R-VA-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.5493](#)

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Tribal Relations, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Leger Fernandez, Teresa \[Rep.-D-NM-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5496](#)

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

Sponsor: [Lieu, Ted \[Rep.-D-CA-36\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.5499](#)

To amend the Antiquities Act to increase congressional oversight with respect to the designation of national monuments, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Miller-Meeks, Mariannette \[Rep.-R-IA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.5500](#)

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an initiative to support peer learning relating to a wide range of agriculture conservation activities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Molinaro, Marcus J. \[Rep.-R-NY-19\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5503](#)

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to include Indian Tribes in certain provisions relating to priority resource concerns.

Sponsor: [Neguse, Joe \[Rep.-D-CO-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.5504](#)

To require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Newhouse, Dan \[Rep.-R-WA-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[H.R.5509](#)

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Porter, Katie \[Rep.-D-CA-47\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.2872](#)

To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Graves, Garret \[Rep.-R-LA-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 161.

Passed House:

[H.R.1435](#)

Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act

Sponsor: [Joyce, John \[Rep.-R-PA-13\]](#) Cosponsors: (84)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-169](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.R.1450](#)

Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act

Sponsor: [Fulcher, Russ \[Rep.-R-ID-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: House - Agriculture; Natural Resources

Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 118-168,Part 1](#), [H. Rept. 118-168,Part 2](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.Res.681](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines.

Sponsor: [Burgess, Michael C. \[Rep.-R-TX-26\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-195](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/14/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Committee Meetings:

EXAMINING SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT OVERREACH AT CEQ

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a [hearing](#) entitled "Examining Systemic Government Overreach at CEQ". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRIORITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a [hearing](#) entitled "An Update on the Department of Energy's Science and Technology Priorities". Testimony was heard from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.2798](#)

A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to clarify land eligible for enrollment in the conservation reserve program.

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.2806](#)

A bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Braun, Mike \[Sen.-R-IN\]](#) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.2807](#)

A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Merkley, Jeff \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.2811](#)

A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lummis, Cynthia M. \[Sen.-R-WY\]](#) Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S.2820](#)

A bill to amend the Antiquities Act to increase congressional oversight with respect to the designation of national monuments, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Lee, Mike \[Sen.-R-UT\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[S.2826](#)

A bill to prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy.

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

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 09/14/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

September 13, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.5444](#)

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

Sponsor: [Matsui, Doris O. \[Rep.-D-CA-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023

Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.5445](#)

To provide for the designation of the Guam and Western Pacific USDA Rural Development office as the representative of USDA Rural Development in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the Freely Associated States.

Sponsor: [Moylan, James C. \[Del.-R-GU-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.Res.680](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cole, Tom \[Rep.-R-OK-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 33.

[H.Res.681](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines.

Sponsor: [Burgess, Michael C. \[Rep.-R-TX-26\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 34.

Bills Reported:

[H.Res.680](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cole, Tom \[Rep.-R-OK-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-193](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 33.

[H.Res.681](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines.

Sponsor: [Burgess, Michael C. \[Rep.-R-TX-26\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-195](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 34.

Passed House:

[H.R.1567](#)

ACRES Act

Sponsor: [Tiffany, Thomas P. \[Rep.-R-WI-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-186](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Committee Meetings:

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: ENHANCING RELIABILITY AND EFFICIENCY TO POWER AMERICAN HOMES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a [hearing](#) entitled "Keeping the Lights On: Enhancing Reliability and Efficiency to Power American Homes". Testimony was heard from Gene Rodrigues, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy; David Ortiz, Director, Office of Electric Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

MAKING THE GRADE?: AUDIT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM:

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a [hearing](#) entitled "Making the Grade?: Audit of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program". Testimony was heard from Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT:

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a [hearing](#) on [H.R. 1435](#), the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9-4, a rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 1435](#), the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in 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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit.

Other Committee Actions:

[H.R.1435](#)

Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act

Sponsor: [Joyce, John \[Rep.-R-PA-13\]](#) Cosponsors: ([84](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-169](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/13/2023 Rules Committee Resolution [H. Res. 681](#) Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of [H.R. 1435](#) with 1 hour of general debate. Motion to recommit allowed. Bill is closed to amendments.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.2783](#)

A bill to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rubio, Marco \[Sen.-R-FL\]](#) Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 09/13/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Committee Meetings:

EXTREME HEAT AND WEATHER:

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine the effects of extreme heat and weather on transportation, after receiving

testimony from David M. Hondula, City of Phoenix, Arizona; Travis Parsons, Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America, Washington, D.C.; and Aimee Flannery, Jacobs Solutions, Herndon, Virginia.

Other Committee Actions:

[H.R.3389](#)

Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Valadao, David G. \[Rep.-R-CA-22\]](#) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture | Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-187](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 09/13/2023 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.2779](#)

A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 09/13/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S.2781](#)

A bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Heinrich, Martin \[Sen.-D-NM\]](#) Cosponsors: (18)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 09/13/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

September 12, 2023

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.5411](#)

To prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers".

Sponsor: [Moolenaar, John R. \[Rep.-R-MI-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (8)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 09/12/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.Res.675](#)

Expressing support for the designation of October 8, 2023, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day".

Sponsor: [Costa, Jim \[Rep.-D-CA-21\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Oversight and Accountability

Latest Action: House - 09/12/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

Passed House:

[H.R.3389](#)

Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Valadao, David G. \[Rep.-R-CA-22\]](#) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-187](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/12/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Committee Meetings:

PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT: *Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a [hearing](#) on... [H.R. 1435](#), the "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act". The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8-5, a rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 1435](#), the "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act",...The rule provides for consideration of [H.R. 1435](#), the "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in 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 Energy and Commerce Resources or their respective designees.

Other Committee Actions:

[H.R.1450](#)

Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act

Sponsor: [Fulcher, Russ \[Rep.-R-ID-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: House - Agriculture; Natural Resources

Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 118-168,Part 1](#), [H. Rept. 118-168,Part 2](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/12/2023 At the conclusion of debate, the chair put the question on the motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Westerman objected to the vote on the grounds that a quorum was not present. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

[H.R.1567](#)

ACRES Act

Sponsor: [Tiffany, Thomas P. \[Rep.-R-WI-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-186](#)

Latest Action: House - 09/12/2023 At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.

Senate:

No environmental or energy related activity in the Senate today

September 11, 2023

House:

Other Committee Actions:

[H.R.5373](#)

Increasing Penalties for Offshore Polluters Act

Sponsor: [Lieu, Ted \[Rep.-D-CA-36\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 09/11/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

[H.R.5356](#)

PFAS Act

Sponsor: [Carbajal, Salud O. \[Rep.-D-CA-24\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 09/11/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.2756](#)

A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 and the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Agricultural Research Service to expand organic research, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Fetterman, John \[Sen.-D-PA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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