### **Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | May 8 - May 12, 2023**

### Highlights:

The Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2023 (H.R.676) passed out of the House. The bipartisan bill would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collaborate with state, local, and tribal entities on efforts to address ocean acidification.

In the Senate, Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced the *Pollinator Power Act* (S.1555), a bill that would incentivize pollinator habitats as part of new solar projects under the Rural Energy for America Program. EESI's 2023 Farm Bill resource page includes legislative side-by-sides on programs including the Rural Energy for America Program. In addition, EESI's *Climate, Energy, and Economic Win-Wins in the Farm Bill* briefing discusses more on the benefits of agrisolar and how it feeds into federal programs.

In the House, the *Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act* (<u>H.R.2429/S.1118</u>) was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. The reintroduced, bipartisan bill would establish a <u>program</u> to develop and share evapotranspiration data from publicly available sources, which would allow water users to better plan for water usage, particularly when faced with drought conditions. EESI's <u>article</u> on water data tools discusses how improved access to water data, like evapotranspiration data, can help ensure scarce water resources are used effectively.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a <a href="hearing">hearing</a> on oversight of federal funds for broadband development. EESI's <a href="issue brief">issue brief</a> on the current state of rural broadband covers how rural broadband can help unlock energy efficiency benefits.

May	12,	20	23

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#### **Committee Action:**

There was no environmental or energy related action in the House.

Senate:

#### **Committee Action:**

There was no environmental or energy related action in the Senate.

### May 11, 2023

House:

### **Committee Meetings:**

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES: Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 662, the "Block Grant Assistance Act of 2023"; H.R. 1450, the "Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act"; H.R. 1713, the "DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act"; H.R. 1480, the "Beagle Brigade Act of 2023"; and H.R. 1697, the "Promoting Precision Agriculture Act of 2023". H.R. 662, H.R. 1450, and H.R. 1697 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1713, and H.R. 1480 were ordered reported, as amended.

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET REQUEST:** Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Energy Budget Request". Testimony was heard from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURE:** *Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on <u>H. Con. Res. 34</u>, expressing disapproval of the withdrawal by the Secretary of the Interior of approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws; and legislation on the Superior National Forest Restoration Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S EXECUTIVE OVERREACH AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: Committee on Natural Resources:

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "The Biden Administration's Executive Overreach and its Impact on American Energy Independence". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled "An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024". Testimony was heard from Richard W. Spinrad, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

#### Senate:

#### **Committee Action:**

#### S.1552

A bill to establish the Coastal Management Fellowship and the Digital Coast Fellowship, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Coons, Christopher A. [Sen.-D-DE]

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 05/11/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### **S.1555**

A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support solar projects under the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Merkley, Jeff [Sen.-D-OR]

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 05/11/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### S.1576

A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Collins, Susan M. [Sen.-R-ME]

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/11/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources.

### **S.J.Res.23**

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries

Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat".

Sponsor: Lummis, Cynthia M. [Sen.-R-WY]

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/11/2023 Passed Senate without amendment by Yea-Nay

Vote. 51 - 49.

#### **S.J.Res.24**

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat".

Sponsor: Mullin, Markwayne [Sen.-R-OK]

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/11/2023 Passed Senate without amendment by Yea-Nay

Vote. 51 - 49.

### **Committee Meetings:**

**PERMITTING PROCESS REFORM:** *Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities for Congress to reform the permitting process for energy and mineral projects, after receiving testimony from Jason Grumet, American Clean Power Association, Rich Nolan, National Mining Association, and Elizabeth H. Shuler, AFL–CIO, all of Washington, D.C.; and Paul Ulrich, Jonah Energy LLC, Pinedale, on behalf of the Wyoming Energy Authority

### May 10, 2023

#### House:

#### **Committee Action:**

### H.R.3173

To provide for transfer of ownership of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada, to authorize the disposal of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada for economic development, to promote conservation in northern Nevada, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Amodei, Mark E. [Rep.-R-NV-2]

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 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.3174

To amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Balint, Becca [Rep.-D-VT-At Large]

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

#### H.R.3180

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to encourage deployment of electric school buses and vehicle-to-grid technologies and applications, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Crow, Jason [Rep.-D-CO-6]

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and

Commerce.

#### H.R.3182

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to create a plan for research, development, and commercialization projects capable of making significant reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions or carbon intensity of qualified fuel production facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Fletcher, Lizzie [Rep.-D-TX-7]

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology; Energy and Commerce Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speake

### H.R.3192

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

Sponsor: Pappas, Chris [Rep.-D-NH-1]

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs; Armed Services

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

### H.R.3195

To rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: <u>Stauber, Pete [Rep.-R-MN-8]</u>
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Natural

Resources.

#### H.R.3200

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Zinke, Ryan K. [Rep.-R-MT-1]

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2023 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.

### **Committee Meetings:**

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

**REQUEST:** Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Environmental Protection Agency Budget Request". Testimony was heard from Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

# CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: OVERSEEING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR

**BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT:** Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Closing the Digital Divide: Overseeing Federal Funds for Broadband Deployment". Testimony was heard from Andrew Von Ah, Director of Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURE:** *Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a hearing on <u>H.R. 2989</u>, the "Save Our Sequoias Act". Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Dennis Townsend, Chairman and Supervisor, District 5, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, California; and public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES:** *Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on <u>H.R. 524</u>, to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; <u>H.R. 615</u>, the "Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023"; <u>H.R. 2689</u>, the "Trust in Government Act of 2023"; and <u>H.R. 2872</u>, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Porter, Rouzer, and Wittman; Matt Strickler, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana; Darryl Mills, Mayor, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina; and public witnesses.

**ESG PART I:** AN EXAMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE PRACTICES WITH ATTORNEYS GENERAL: Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "ESG Part I: An Examination of Environmental, Social, and Governance Practices with Attorneys General". Testimony was heard from Sean Reyes, Attorney General, Utah; Steve Marshall, Attorney General, Alabama; and Michael Frerichs, State Treasurer, Illinois.

RETURN ON UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IIJA, THE IRA, AND THE CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

Subcommittee on Energy; and Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a joint hearing entitled "Return on Unprecedented Investment: An Analysis of the Department of Energy's Implementation of the IIJA, the IRA, and the CHIPS and Science Act". Testimony was heard from Geraldine Richmond, Under Secretary for Science and Innovation, Department of Energy; and Kahleen Hogan, Principal Deputy Under Secretary and Acting Under Secretary for Infrastructure, Department of Energy.

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**Committee Action:** 

H.R.676

### **Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2023**

Sponsor: Pingree, Chellie [Rep.-D-ME-1]

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology | Senate - Commerce, Science,

and Transportation

Committee Report: H. Rept. 118-48

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred

to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### S.1509

A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend and reform the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Booker, Cory A. [Sen.-D-NJ]

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### S.1521

A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: <u>Daines</u>, <u>Steve</u> [Sen.-R-MT]

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources.

#### S.1531

A bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Whitehouse, Sheldon [Sen.-D-RI]

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources.

#### S.1538

A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

Sponsor: <u>Heinrich, Martin [Sen.-D-NM]</u>

Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### S.1539

A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Thune, John [Sen.-R-SD]

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### **S.1548**

A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to encourage deployment of electric school buses and vehicle-to-grid technologies and applications, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: <u>Hickenlooper</u>, <u>John W. [Sen.-D-CO]</u>

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources.

#### **S.J.Res.23**

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat".

Sponsor: Lummis, Cynthia M. [Sen.-R-WY]

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under

General Orders, Calendar No. 61.

### **S.J.Res.24**

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat".

Sponsor: Mullin, Markwayne [Sen.-R-OK]

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2023 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 62.

### **Committee Meetings:**

**NOMINATION:** Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Luján, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

costs of climate change: Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine leadership perspectives and experience on the national costs of climate change, after receiving testimony from former Senator Bill Frist, The Nature Conservancy; Terry Branstad, former Ambassador to China, Department of State, Des Moines, Iowa; and former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Sydney.

BUSINESS MEETING: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items: S. 229, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; S. 576, to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; S. 1280, to require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; S. 1284, to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; S. 1414, to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service; S. 1416, to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network; and promotions in the Coast Guard.

**NPS BUDGET:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the National Park Service, after receiving testimony from Charles F. Sams III, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**NOMINATION:** Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representative Beyer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### May 9, 2023

#### House:

#### Passed House:

### H.R.676

**Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2023** 

Sponsor: Pingree, Chellie [Rep.-D-ME-1]

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology | Senate - Commerce, Science,

and Transportation

Committee Report: H. Rept. 118-48

Latest Action: Senate - 05/9/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### **Committee Action:**

#### H.R.3137

To require the Secretary of Energy to submit a report on radioactive isotope dependency and how advanced nuclear reactors can reduce such dependency.

Sponsor: <u>Donalds, Byron [Rep.-R-FL-19]</u>

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 05/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and

Commerce.

### H.R.3167

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify certain allotments under that Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Waltz, Michael [Rep.-R-FL-6]

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/09/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation

and Infrastructure.

#### House:

### **Committee Action:**

#### H.R.2387

**Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act** 

Sponsor: <u>Schiff, Adam B. [Rep.-D-CA-30]</u>
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

### H.R.2419

**Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act** 

Sponsor: Costa, Jim [Rep.-D-CA-21]
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and

Fisheries.

#### H.R.2429

**Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act** 

Sponsor: Lee, Susie [Rep.-D-NV-3]

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and

Fisheries.

#### 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.

Sponsor: <u>Murphy, Gregory [Rep.-R-NC-3]</u> Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and

Fisheries.

### H.R.2459

Hawaii Native Species Conservation and Recovery Act of 2023

Sponsor: Case, Ed [Rep.-D-HI-1]

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and

Fisheries.

### H.R.2468

# **Mountain View Corridor Completion Act**

Sponsor: Owens, Burgess [Rep.-R-UT-4] Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

#### H.R.2545

# **Central Coast Heritage Protection Act**

Sponsor: <u>Carbajal, Salud O. [Rep.-D-CA-24]</u> Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

#### H.R.2560

### **Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023**

Sponsor: <u>Keating, William R. [Rep.-D-MA-9]</u>
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and

Fisheries.

#### H.R.2765

# Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Sponsor: <u>Kilmer, Derek [Rep.-D-WA-6]</u>
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

#### H.R.2989

To improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: McCarthy, Kevin [Rep.-R-CA-20]

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

## H.R.3092

To establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved communities to green spaces, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Gomez, Jimmy [Rep.-D-CA-34]

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads,

Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

# H.Con.Res.34

Expressing disapproval of the withdrawal by the Secretary of the Interior of approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

Sponsor: <u>Stauber, Pete [Rep.-R-MN-8]</u>
Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and

Mineral Resources.

#### Senate:

There was no environmental or energy related action in the Senate.