

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | February 5 - February 9, 2024

Highlights:

The *Drought Preparedness Act* ([H.R.4385](#)), introduced by Reps. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) and Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.), passed the House last week. This [bipartisan](#) bill reauthorizes and advances long-term solutions for communities across the [Colorado River Basin](#) grappling with water scarcity and drought.

Sens. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) introduced the *America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act* ([S.3791](#)). The [bipartisan](#) bill would bolster national efforts (such as expanding and increasing funding for conservation programs) to protect wildlife, waters, and natural lands. EESI's [briefing](#), *Building a Durable National Framework for Large Landscape Conservation*, emphasizes the importance of collaboration between states, the federal government, and tribes to achieve conservation goals—a key component of the bill.

Sens. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Mitt Romney (R-Utah), and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.), introduced the *Watershed Protection and Forest Recovery Act* ([S.3760/H.R.7294](#)). This bipartisan, bicameral bill would establish an Emergency Forest Watershed Program to expedite funding and strengthen support for communities seeking to protect their water supplies following natural disasters on federal forestlands.

Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), and Reps. David Joyce (R-Ohio), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) introduced the *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024* ([S.3738/H.R.7257](#)). This bipartisan, bicameral bill reauthorizes the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI) to address ongoing and emerging threats to the Great Lakes system for years to come, including by increasing funding levels for 2027 through 2031.

February 9, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7310](#)

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide a disclosure notice to homebuyers of properties owned by the Department of

Housing and Urban Development that are located in special flood hazard areas, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Diaz-Balart, Mario \[Rep.-R-FL-26\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 02/09/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.3195](#)

Superior National Forest Restoration Act

Sponsor: [Stauber, Pete \[Rep.-R-MN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (13)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/09/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 308.

[H.R.3397](#)

WEST Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Curtis, John R. \[Rep.-R-UT-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (20)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/09/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 309.

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.

February 8, 2024

House:

No climate or energy related activity in the House today.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3777](#)

A bill to require Congress to budget in advance for disasters, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Romney, Mitt \[Sen.-R-UT\]](#) Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: Senate - Budget

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3778](#)

A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to modify eligibility for the State response to contaminants program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Shaheen, Jeanne \[Sen.-D-NH\]](#) Cosponsors: ([3](#))

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3785](#)

A bill to support rural coastal and maritime economic development, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Murkowski, Lisa \[Sen.-R-AK\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3786](#)

A bill to provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cruz, Ted \[Sen.-R-TX\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3788](#)

A bill to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3789](#)

A bill to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3791](#)

America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act

Sponsor: [Carper, Thomas R. \[Sen.-D-DE\]](#) Cosponsors: (8)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

Passed Senate:

[S.Res.549](#)

A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 17 through February 24, 2024, as "National FFA Week", recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of globally conscious leaders who will change the world, and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the "Give the Gift of Blue" program, which has donated more than 17,000 of the iconic FFA blue jackets to FFA members in need.

Sponsor: [Young, Todd \[Sen.-R-IN\]](#) Cosponsors: (55)

Latest Action: Senate - 02/08/2024 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. ([All Actions](#))

Committee Meetings:

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine the administration's pause on liquefied natural gas (LNG) export approvals and the Department of Energy's process for assessing LNG export applications, after receiving testimony from David Turk, Deputy Secretary of Energy; Charlie Riedl, Center for LNG, Washington, D.C.; and James Watson, Eurogas, Brussels, Belgium.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine [S. 2385](#), to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, [S. 2868](#), ... [S.2796](#), to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and [S. 3230](#), 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, after receiving testimony from Melanie Anne Egorin, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation; Kathryn Isom-Clause, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy and Economic Development for Indian Affairs; Manuel Heart, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado; Douglas G. Lankford, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami; Robert L. Larsen, Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, Morton; Victoria Kitcheyan, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Winnebago; and Angie Wilson, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Health Center, Reno, Nevada.

February 7, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7270](#)

To prohibit fetal remains in publicly owned water systems, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Banks, Jim \[Rep.-R-IN-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[H.R.7273](#)

To rescind certain unobligated balances relating to charging and fueling grants and national electric vehicle grants.

Sponsor: [Burlison, Eric \[Rep.-R-MO-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Appropriations; Energy and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7275](#)

To establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Cartwright, Matt \[Rep.-D-PA-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7284](#)

To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from using assessments generated by the Integrated Risk Information System as a tier 1 data source in rulemakings and other regulatory actions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Grothman, Glenn \[Rep.-R-WI-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7286](#)

To amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Huffman, Jared \[Rep.-D-CA-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. ([All Actions](#))

[H.R.7289](#)

To establish the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative to carry out projects for the protection and restoration of the Mississippi River Corridor, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [McCollum, Betty \[Rep.-D-MN-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker,.

[H.R.7294](#)

Watershed Protection and Forest Recovery Act

Sponsor: [Neguse, Joe \[Rep.-D-CO-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. ([All Actions](#))

[H.R.7295](#)

To authorize the conveyance of property in North Bonneville, Washington, to the Port of Skamania, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Perez, Marie Gluesenkamp \[Rep.-D-WA-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. ([All Actions](#))

[H.J.Res.114](#)

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitting by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure".

Sponsor: [Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" \[Rep.-R-AR-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (63)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. ([All Actions](#))

Bills Reported:

[H.R.6009](#)

Restoring American Energy Dominance Act

Sponsor: [Boebert, Lauren \[Rep.-R-CO-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (12)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 307. ([All Actions](#))

Passed House:

[H.R.3415](#)

Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act

Sponsor: [Hageman, Harriet M. \[Rep.-R-WY-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-367](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/07/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. ([All Actions](#))

Committee Meetings:

THE STATE OF DOD HOUSING AND AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a [hearing](#) entitled "The State of DoD Housing and Aging Infrastructure". Testimony was heard from Brendan Owens, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of Defense; Rachel Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Army; Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Navy; and Ravi Chaudhary, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Air Force.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3753](#)

A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide financial assistance to States to implement expanded energy savings performance contracting programs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 02/07/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3754](#)

A bill to establish the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative to carry out projects for the protection and restoration of the Mississippi River Corridor, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Baldwin, Tammy \[Sen.-D-WI\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/07/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3760](#)

Watershed Protection and Forest Recovery Act

Sponsor: [Bennet, Michael F. \[Sen.-D-CO\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)
Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Latest Action: Senate - 02/07/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. ([All Actions](#))

[S.3761](#)

A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network and establish a national agricultural crisis hotline, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Gillibrand, Kirsten E. \[Sen.-D-NY\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)
Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Latest Action: Senate - 02/07/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. ([All Actions](#))

[S.J.Res.61](#)

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 "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure".

Sponsor: [Cramer, Kevin \[Sen.-R-ND\]](#) Cosponsors: (47)
Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works
Latest Action: Senate - 02/07/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

February 6, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7257](#)

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024

Sponsor: [Joyce, David P. \[Rep.-R-OH-14\]](#) Cosponsors: (19)
Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure
Latest Action: House - 02/06/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. ([All Actions](#))

[H.Con.Res.90](#)

Condemning the Biden administration for its ban on the issuance of liquefied natural gas export permits.

Sponsor: [Williams, Brandon \[Rep.-R-NY-22\]](#) Cosponsors: ([10](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 02/06/2024 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... ([All Actions](#))

Bills Reported:

[H.R.7023](#)

Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act

Sponsor: [Rouzer, David \[Rep.-R-NC-7\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/06/2024 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 306. ([All Actions](#))

Committee Meetings:

POLITICS OVER PEOPLE: HOW BIDEN'S LNG EXPORT BAN THREATENS AMERICA'S ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a [hearing](#) entitled "Politics Over People: How Biden's LNG Export Ban Threatens America's Energy and Economic Security". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Other Committee Actions:

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a [markup](#) on [H.R. 1829](#), to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; [H.R. 2925](#), the "Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023"; [H.R. 4297](#), the "Bolts Ditch Act"; and [H.R. 4984](#), the "D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act". [H.R. 1829](#), [H.R. 2925](#), and [H.R. 4984](#) were ordered reported, as amended. [H.R. 4297](#) was ordered reported, without amendment.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3738](#)

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024

Sponsor: [Stabenow, Debbie \[Sen.-D-MI\]](#) Cosponsors: (13)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/06/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. ([All Actions](#))

February 5, 2024

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7219](#)

To ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [McClain, Lisa C. \[Rep.-R-MI-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Oversight and Accountability; Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7221](#)

To provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Beyer, Donald S., Jr. \[Rep.-D-VA-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

[H.R.7240](#)

To achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of claims to water rights in the State of Montana for the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rosendale Sr., Matthew M. \[Rep.-R-MT-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. ([All Actions](#))

[H.R.7241](#)

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters.

Sponsor: [Stauber, Pete \[Rep.-R-MN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.Res.998](#)

Expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2024, as "Transit Equity Day".

Sponsor: [Foushee, Valerie P. \[Rep.-D-NC-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. ([All Actions](#))

Passed House:

[H.R.1240](#)

Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Feenstra, Randy \[Rep.-R-IA-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-369](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection

[H.R.2882](#)

Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023

Sponsor: [Ciscomani, Juan \[Rep.-R-AZ-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Education and the Workforce

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. ([All Actions](#))

[H.R.2997](#)

CONVEY Act

Sponsor: [Boebert, Lauren \[Rep.-R-CO-3\]](#) Cosponsors: ([2](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.R.4051](#)

Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act

Sponsor: [Wittman, Robert J. \[Rep.-R-VA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: ([5](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. ([All Actions](#))

[H.R.4385](#)

Drought Preparedness Act

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

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 118-365](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.R.5009](#)

WILD Act

Sponsor: [Joyce, David P. \[Rep.-R-OH-14\]](#) Cosponsors: ([12](#))

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/05/2024 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. ([All Actions](#))

Senate:

No climate or energy related activity in the Senate today.