

A Look Ahead: House Republican Priorities on Energy and Environment

Issue Brief

Updated April 25, 2023

The 118th Congress opened earlier this year with Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives. Although the Democrats continue to control the Senate and Executive Branch, Republican control of the House has allowed the GOP to introduce the energy platform they have been working toward [for several years](#).

After initial action on legislation dealing with energy sales to China, and oil and gas production, the House of Representatives passed on March 30, 2023 the Republican energy package, the [Lower Energy Costs Act, H.R. 1](#), on a vote of 225-204.

H.R.1 was a product of five different committees: the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Natural Resources Committee, the Agriculture Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Budget Committee. The legislation builds upon the foundation laid out by the Republican Energy, Climate and Conservation Task Force from the 117th Congress.

House Republicans' Energy Agenda

Policies included in H.R. 1 can be broken down into several broad categories: Increasing American Energy Production; Increasing the Production and Processing of Critical Minerals; Streamlining Energy Infrastructure and Exports; Broad Permitting Reform; and Government Accountability.

It includes provisions to streamline the approval process for energy production on federal lands and waters; expedite hardrock mining; and streamline manufacturing and permitting. Specifically, H.R. 1 reforms the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by providing a simplified permitting process and speeding construction for federally impacted projects, including pipelines, transmission, and water infrastructure. The bill also includes measures that would repeal the methane emissions fee and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that were included in the Inflation reduction Act (P.L 117-169).

The agenda outlined by the Energy, Climate, and Conservation Task Force includes six main pillars:

Unlock American resources	Beat China and Russia
American innovation	Conservation with a purpose
Let America build	Build resilient communities



What to Expect This Year

Before action on H.R.1, the House began the 118th Congress with a vote to prevent the Administration from selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China ([H.R.22](#)) and action on a bill to limit the drawdown of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Department of Energy develops a plan to increase the percentage of federal lands for oil and gas production ([H.R.21](#)). A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate ([S.31](#)).

Other House energy policy priorities for this year’s congress, based on the Energy, Climate Change and Conservation agenda include [addressing aspects of the Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) and other potential pieces of energy legislation.

There has been support for permitting reforms among House and Senate Republicans, and from Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) who intends to reintroduce his [permitting reform legislation](#) this year after his amendments to the IRA were blocked in the Senate. Conversations among Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle continue on the topic of permitting reform.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

The House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by [Cathy McMorris-Rogers](#) (R-WA) and the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by [Bruce Westerman](#) (R-AR), share primary jurisdiction over energy and natural resource issues in the House.

Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee include:

Republican Majority Members		Democratic Minority Members	
Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	Dan Crenshaw (TX-02)	Ranking Member Frank Pallone (NJ-06)	Raul Ruiz (CA-25)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)	John Joyce (PA-13)		Scott Peters (CA-50)
Bob Latta (OH-05)	Kelly Armstrong (ND-At large)	Anna Eshoo (CA-18)	Debbie Dingell (MI-06)
Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	Randy Weber (TX-14)*	Diana DeGette (CO-01)	Marc Veasey (TX-33)
Morgan Griffith (VA-09)	Rick Allen (GA-12)*	Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)	Ann Kuster (NH-02)
Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	Troy Balderson (OH-12)*		Robin Kelly (IL-02)
Bill Johnson (OH-06)	Russ Fulcher (ID-01)*	Doris Matsui (CA-07)	Nanette Barragán (CA-44)
Larry Bucshon (IN-08)	August Pfluger (TX-11)*	Kathy Castor (FL-14)	Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-At large)
Richard Hudson (NC-09)	Diana Harshbarger (TN-01)*	John Sarbanes (MD-03)	Darren Soto (FL-09)
Tim Walberg (MI-05)	Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01)*	Paul Tonko (NY-20)	Angie Craig (MN-02)
Buddy Carter (GA-01)	Kat Cammack (FL-03)*	Yvette Clarke (NY-09)	Kim Schrier (WA-08)
Jeff Duncan (SC-03)	Jay Obernolte (CA-23)*	Tony Cárdenas (CA-29)	Lori Trahan (MA-03)
Gary Palmer (AL-06)			Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07)
Neal Dunn, M.D. (FL-02)			
John Curtis (UT-03)			
Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	<i>*denotes new to committee</i>		
Greg Pence (IN-06)			



House Natural Resources Committee

Priorities of House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Westerman include [tackling Western drought and wildfires, border crises, and government accountability, and securing domestic energy](#).

Members of the Natural Resources Committee include:

Republican Majority Members		Democratic Minority Members	
Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04)	Jerry Carl (AL-01)	Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (AZ-07)	Melanie Stansbury (NM-01)
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)	Matt Rosendale (MT-02)	Grace Napolitano (CA-31)	Mary Peltola (AK-At large)
Rob Wittman (VA-01)	Lauren Boebert (CO-03)	Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (MP-At large)	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)
Tom McClintock (CA-05)	Cliff Bentz (OR-02)	Jared Huffman (CA-02)	Kevin Mullin (CA-15)
Paul Gosar (AZ-09)	Jen Kiggans (VA-02)*	Ruben Gallego (AZ-03)	Val Hoyle (OR-04)
Garret Graves (LA-06)	Jim Moylan (GU-At large)*	Joe Neguse (CO-02)	Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37)
Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS-At large)	Wesley Hunt (TX-38)*	Mike Levin (CA-49)	Seth Magaziner (RI-02)
Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)	Mike Collins (GA-10)*	Katie Porter (CA-47)	Nydia Velázquez (NY-07)
Daniel Webster (FL-11)	Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13)*	Teresa Leger Fernández (AZ-03)	Ed Case (HI-01)
Jennifer González-Colón (PR-At large)	John Duarte (CA-13)*	Susie Lee (NV-03)	Debbie Dingell (MI-06)
Russ Fulcher (ID-01)	Harriet Hageman (WY-at large)*		
Pete Stauber (MN-08)			
John Curtis (UT-03)	<i>*denotes new to committee</i>		
Tom Tiffany (WI-07)			

House Energy, Climate, and Conservation Task Force

The House Republican energy agenda in the 118th Congress will build upon the report issued by the [Energy, Climate, and Conservation Task Force](#) in the 117th Congress which focused on [innovative American technology, permitting reform, American manufacturing, American resources, resilient communities, and natural climate solutions](#). This task force was established as a part of House [Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s Commitment to America plan](#). Members of the [task force include](#):

Chairman Garret Graves (LA-06)	Dusty Johnson (SD-At Large)	Michael Burgess (TX-26)
Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	Randy Feenstra (IA-04)	Glenn Thompson (PA-15)
Dan Crenshaw (TX-02)	Blake Moore (UT-01)	Stephanie Bice (OK-05)
John Curtis (UT-03)	Pete Stauber (MN-08)	August Pfluger (TX-11)
Jeff Duncan (SC-03)	Yvette Herrell (NM-02)	David Valadao (CA-22)
David McKinley (WV-01)	Brian Mast (FL-21)	



For more information on this topic:

[BCSE Issue Brief: H.R.1 \(3/28/23\)](#)

[ClearPath Action: Legislation](#)

[House Republicans Launch 6-Part Energy, Climate & Conservation Policy Platform](#)

[House Energy and Commerce Committee: Securing Cleaner American Energy Agenda](#)

[Leader Rodgers: Securing America’s Energy Grid Will Be a Top Priority Next Congress](#)

[Manchin Bid to Speed Energy Permits to Reemerge in 2023](#)

[Congressional Research Service: Rules Governing House Committee and Subcommittee Assignment Procedures](#)