

House Floor Action on H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act, to Begin Week of March 27

Issue Brief

March 20, 2023

House Republicans introduced an energy policy package on March 16, entitled the [Lower Energy Costs Act, H.R. 1](#). The bill seeks to lower energy costs by increasing U.S. energy production, exports, infrastructure expansion, and critical minerals processing. Floor action on the bill is expected the week of March 27 under regular order.

What's Included

H.R. 1 includes provisions to streamline the approval process for energy production on federal lands and waters and expedite hardrock mining as well as 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).

Policies included in H.R. 1 can be broken down into several broad categories, including:

- Increasing American energy production
- Increasing the production and processing of critical minerals
- Streamlining energy infrastructure and exports
- Broad permitting reform
- Government accountability

Key Committees and Expected Action

H.R. 1 is sponsored by Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA-01) and co-sponsored by Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05), Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04), and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO-06).

The package includes individual pieces of legislation from 25 Members of Congress, which has been marked up by these three committees.

The Senate is not expected to consider H.R. 1 as written, but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has expressed interest in considering legislation aimed at streamlining federal infrastructure permitting and siting processes.

For more information on this topic:

[H.R. 1 summary](#)
[Energy & Commerce summary](#)
[Natural Resources summary](#)
[Section-by-section summary](#)

[Transportation & Infrastructure summary](#)
[Bill text](#)
[Rules Committee announcement](#)

