

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | February 17 - February 20, 2026

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology reported the *Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO) Act* ([H.R.390](#)) to the House floor after voting unanimously to advance it. The bill, introduced by Reps. Vince Fong (R-Calif.) and Jennifer McClellan (D-Va.), [authorizes](#) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's ACERO project, which is focusing on the use of drones to combat wildfires, especially in low-visibility conditions in which manned aircrafts cannot be used. To learn more about federal responses to wildfires, join EESI on March 3 for our [briefing](#), *Igniting Innovation: Progress and a Path Forward for Wildfire Policy*.

Reps. Brittany Pettersen (D-Colo.) and Jeff Hurd (R-Colo.) introduced the *Rural Water Security Act* ([H.R.7631](#)) to [boost federal funding eligibility](#) for rural water infrastructure projects in Colorado. The bill, if passed, would amend the *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) to include Colorado in federal water infrastructure assistance projects. To learn more about rural water systems and federal programs, check out this EESI [article](#).

Reps. Sean Casten (D-Ill.), Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), and Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) introduced the *Powering Productivity Act* ([H.R.7606](#)) and the *Energy - Modernizing Energy Information Administration Tracking and Reporting to Increase Consistency (Energy METRIC) Act* ([H.R.7607](#)), which both aim to [modernize](#) the U.S. energy system's reporting. The *Powering Productivity Act* would direct the Department of Energy to create a national standard for measuring economic energy productivity. The *Energy METRIC Act* aims to improve the transparency and scope of energy reporting within the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

February 20, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7601](#)

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to implement the Executive order entitled "Promoting the National Defense by Ensuring an Adequate Supply of Elemental Phosphorus and Glyphosate-Based Herbicides", and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Massie, Thomas \[Rep.-R-KY-4\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary

[H.R.7603](#)

To amend the Act of August 28, 1937 (commonly referred to as the "O&C Act") with respect to timber production.

Sponsor: [Bentz, Cliff \[Rep.-R-OR-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.7606](#)

Powering Productivity Act

Sponsor: [Casten, Sean \[Rep.-D-IL-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R.7607](#)

To study and modernize the measurement and reporting of United States energy use, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Casten, Sean \[Rep.-D-IL-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R.7625](#)

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the budget, resources, and capabilities of the Coast Guard as the co-Sector Risk Management Agency for the marine transportation system.

Sponsor: [McDowell, Addison P. \[Rep.-R-NC-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Homeland Security

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

[H.R.7627](#)

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 - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture

H.R.7629

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to treat the District of Columbia as a State for the purposes of such Acts, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Norton, Eleanor Holmes \[Del.-D-DC-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

H.R.7631

Rural Water Security Act

Sponsor: [Pettersen, Brittany \[Rep.-D-CO-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

H.R.7635

To prohibit the importation of certain energy storage systems made by entities within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Steube, W. Gregory \[Rep.-R-FL-17\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Bills Reported:

H.R.390

ACERO Act

Sponsor: [Fong, Vince \[Rep.-R-CA-20\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-501](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/20/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 427

Senate:

The Senate did not meet today.

February 19, 2025

The House and Senate did not meet today.

February 18, 2025

The House and Senate did not meet today.

February 17, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7589](#)

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to carry out the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Davids, Sharice \[Rep.-D-KS-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/17/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture

[H.R.7592](#)

To require certain agencies to impose extendable sunset dates on certain regulations, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Goldman, Craig A. \[Rep.-R-TX-12\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/17/2026 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

[H.R.7595](#)

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study that identifies how many residential dwelling units, and how many dwelling units in public housing, are located within 1 mile of a superfund site.

Sponsor: [Lawler, Michael \[Rep.-R-NY-17\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 02/17/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services

Senate:

The Senate did not meet today.