

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | February 23 - February 27, 2026

The Senate passed [S.2245](#) to amend the *Digital Coast Act*. Specifically, Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) introduced the bill to [extend](#) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Digital Coast Program, which supports information, technology, and training needed to preserve and protect coastal communities from the growing threats of climate change. Reps. Dave Min (D-Calif.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) lead the House version of the bill ([H.R.4256](#)), which is currently pending a vote on the House floor.

The House passed the *Accessing Satellite Capabilities to Enable New Discoveries Act (ASCEND Act)* ([H.R.2600](#)), introduced by Reps. Jeff Hurd (R-Colo.) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.). The bill would [permanently authorize](#) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition program. Data collected from this program’s commercial satellites can bolster research and forecasting on extreme weather. For more on how satellites can support climate research, check out EESI’s [article](#), “Out-of-This-World Methane Detection: Using Satellites to Track Super Emitters.”

The House also passed the *Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO) Act* ([H.R.390](#)). 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, check out EESI’s [briefing](#), *Igniting Innovation: Progress and a Path Forward for Wildfire Policy*.

The House Committee on Natural Resources advanced the *Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2025* ([H.R.755](#)), reintroduced by Reps. Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.) and Susie Lee (D-Nev.) The bill would [reconcile](#) differences between the U.S. Department of Energy’s critical materials list and the U.S. Geological Survey’s critical minerals list, and increase the number of critical minerals and materials eligible for [clean energy tax credits](#). Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) lead the Senate version of the bill ([S.714](#)). To learn more about these minerals—and their lists—matter, check out EESI’s [issue brief](#).

The House Committee on Natural Resources also agreed to the *Modernizing Access to Our Public Oceans (MAPOceans) Act* ([H.R.3340](#)), introduced by Reps. Russell Fry (R-S.C.) and Mike Levin (D-Calif.). The bill [builds on](#) the successful passage of the *MAPLand Act* ([P.L. 117-114](#)) in 2022 and the *MAPWaters Act* ([P.L. 119-62](#)) in 2025 to

improve data collection and publication on the use of U.S. marine waterways. By requiring more accessible and accurate data, the bill aims to improve Americans' recreational experience in U.S. waterways, promote safe and legal marinel activity, and boost coastal economies.

February 27, 2025

The House and Senate did not meet today.

February 26, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7728](#)

To interconnect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to its neighbors, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Casar, Greg \[Rep.-D-TX-35\]](#) Cosponsors: ([13](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R.7729](#)

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the issuance of rules relating to shared savings frameworks for certain transmitting utilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Casten, Sean \[Rep.-D-IL-6\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R.7734](#)

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include additional priorities as research and extension initiatives, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Franklin, Scott \[Rep.-R-FL-18\]](#) Cosponsors: ([1](#))

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture

[H.R.7741](#)

To promote competition in the area of digital energy management tools, enhance consumer access to electric energy and natural gas information, allow for the development and adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers, organizations, and governments manage their energy usage and improve electric grid reliability, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Mullin, Kevin \[Rep.-D-CA-15\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/26/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3926](#)

A bill to promote competition in the area of digital energy management tools, enhance consumer access to electric energy and natural gas information, allow for the development and adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers, organizations, and governments manage their energy usage and improve electric grid reliability, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Welch, Peter \[Sen.-D-VT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

[S.3928](#)

A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study, and publish guidance on, calculating and reporting scope 3 emissions.

Sponsor: [Schiff, Adam B. \[Sen.-D-CA\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

[S.3936](#)

A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for guaranteed and direct loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become qualified operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with farm ownership, operating, or emergency loans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Tuberville, Tommy \[Sen.-R-AL\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

S.3939

A bill to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Warner, Mark R. \[Sen.-D-VA\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

S.3947

A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to establish a categorical exclusion for reconductoring within existing rights-of-way, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [McCormick, David \[Sen.-R-PA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Passed Senate:

H.R.972

Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act

Sponsor: [Titus, Dina \[Rep.-D-NV-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources | Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-279](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent

H.R.2815

Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025

Sponsor: [Begich, Nicholas \[Rep.-R-AK-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources | Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-354](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent

[S.2245](#)

A bill to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program.

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

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee Report: [S. Rept. 119-100](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 02/26/2026 Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent

Other Committee Meetings:

TECH COMPETITION, CRITICAL MINERALS, AND SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on tech competition, critical minerals, and supply chain security from Jacob Helberg, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

February 25, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7670](#)

To require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.

Sponsor: [Bonamici, Suzanne \[Rep.-D-OR-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/25/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.7684](#)

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study, and publish guidance on, calculating and reporting scope 3 emissions.

Sponsor: [Beyer, Donald S. \[Rep.-D-VA-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/25/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R.7695](#)

To provide that the final rule titled "Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation" and issued on January 12, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 3244) shall have no force or effect and require the Secretary of Agriculture to construct certain roads on National Forest System lands, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hageman, Harriet M. \[Rep.-R-WY-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Agriculture; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/25/2026 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.7697](#)

To establish an international strategy for AI research and development to improve outdated electrical grids, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hernández, Pablo Jose \[Resident Commissioner-D-PR-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 02/25/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

[H.R.7712](#)

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate with various entities, and to establish a grant program, as a means of supporting nurseries and seed orchards, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Schrier, Kim \[Rep.-D-WA-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/25/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture

Passed House:

[H.R.4758](#)

Homeowner Energy Freedom Act

Sponsor: [Goldman, Craig A. \[Rep.-R-TX-12\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce | Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-484](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3910](#)

A bill to support marine carbon dioxide removal activities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Schatz, Brian \[Sen.-D-HI\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.3912](#)

A bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sheehy, Tim \[Sen.-R-MT\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.3915](#)

A bill to require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.

Sponsor: [Wyden, Ron \[Sen.-D-OR\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.3919](#)

A bill to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 with respect to the hurricane forecast improvement program, and for other purposes.

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

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[S.3923](#)

A bill to improve the weather research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, and expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data.

Sponsor: [Cruz, Ted \[Sen.-R-TX\]](#) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/25/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee Hearings:

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine Water Resources Development Act of 2026, focusing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, programs, and priorities, after receiving testimony from Adam Telle, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr., Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

February 24, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

H.R.7656

To support marine carbon dioxide removal activities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Bonamici, Suzanne \[Rep.-D-OR-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology; Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

H.R.7662

To enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Nehls, Troy E. \[Rep.-R-TX-22\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure; Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker

[H.R.7665](#)

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to add biological pest control to the list of high-priority research and extension areas.

Sponsor: [Scholten, Hillary J. \[Rep.-D-MI-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.755](#)

Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2025

Sponsor: [Ciscomani, Juan \[Rep.-R-AZ-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (13)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 444.

Passed House:

[H.R.4626](#)

Don't Mess With My Home Appliances Act

Sponsor: [Allen, Rick W. \[Rep.-R-GA-12\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-470](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

[H.Res.1075](#)

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4626) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4758) to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Griffith, H. Morgan \[Rep.-R-VA-9\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Rules

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-515](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/24/2026 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Committee Hearings:

FROM SOURCE TO TAP: A HEARING TO EXAMINE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAFE, RELIABLE, AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a [hearing](#) entitled "From Source to Tap: A Hearing to Examine Challenges and Opportunities for Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water". Testimony was heard from Nicole N. Murley, Acting Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS AND THE COSTS TO RATEPAYERS AND ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries [hearing](#) entitled "Bureaucratic Delays and the Costs to Ratepayers and Electric Power Systems". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources [hearing](#) on H.R. 1501, the "Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025"; H.R. 2969, the "Finding ORE Act"; H.R. 4781, the "RESCUE Act of 2025"; H.R. 5929, the "Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act"; H.R. 7126, the "SECURE Minerals Act of 2026"; and H.R. 7458, the "Domestic ORE Act". Testimony was heard from Representatives Barr, Hageman, and Wittman; and public witnesses.

POWERING AMERICA'S AI FUTURE: ASSESSING POLICY OPTIONS TO INCREASE DATA CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a [hearing](#) entitled "Powering America's AI Future: Assessing Policy Options to Increase Data Center Infrastructure". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026--ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a [hearing](#) entitled "Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2026--Administration Priorities". Testimony was heard from Adam R. Telle, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Army (Civil Works); and Lieutenant General William

H. Butch Graham, Jr., Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.3895](#)

A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Durbin, Richard J. \[Sen.-D-IL\]](#) (Introduced 02/24/2026) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 02/24/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

[S.3903](#)

A bill to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Husted, Jon \[Sen.-R-OH\]](#) (Introduced 02/24/2026) Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/24/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee Hearings:

CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAINS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine rebuilding American critical minerals supply chains, after receiving testimony from Michael P. Cadenazzi, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Policy, and Jeffrey Frankston, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience, both of the Department of Defense.

February 23, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7644](#)

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to modify the authorities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation relating to strategic competitors of the United States and critical minerals.

Sponsor: [Barr, Andy \[Rep.-R-KY-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 02/23/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Bills Reported:

[H.R.3340](#)

Modernizing Access to Our Public Oceans Act

Sponsor: [Fry, Russell \[Rep.-R-SC-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (15)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/23/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 438

[H.R.4294](#)

MAWS Act of 2026

Sponsor: [Elfreth, Sarah \[Rep.-D-MD-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 02/23/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 436

Passed House:

[H.R.390](#)

To utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial responses to wildfires, and for other purposes

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

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

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

Latest Action: House - 02/23/2026 The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection

[H.R.2600](#)

ASCEND Act

Sponsor: [Hurd, Jeff \[Rep.-R-CO-3\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-502](#)

Latest Action: House - 02/23/2026 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection

Committee Hearings:

HOMEOWNER ENERGY FREEDOM ACT; HOME APPLIANCE PROTECTION AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a [hearing](#) on H.R. 4758, the "Homeowner Energy Freedom Act"; and H.R. 4626, the "Home Appliance Protection and Affordability Act". The Committee granted, by a record vote of 6–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4626, the "Home Appliance Protection and Affordability Act", and H.R. 4758, the "Homeowner Energy Freedom Act". The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4626, the "Home Appliance Protection and Affordability Act", under a closed rule.

Senate:

No environmental or energy related activity in the Senate today.
