



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025
Subject: Markup of 20 bills

The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building. The bills to be considered include: H.R. 131 (Rep. Boebert); H.R. 183 (Rep. McClintock); H.R. 261 (Rep. Carter of GA); H.R. 410 (Rep. Begich); H.R. 504 (Rep. Gimenez); H.R. 655 (Rep. Bentz); H.R. 725 (Rep. Downing); H.R. 1276 (Rep. Comer); H.R. 1729 (Rep. Neguse); H.R. 1917 (Rep. Dingell); H.R. 2250 (Rep. DelBene); H.R. 2316 (Rep. Hurd); H.R. 2388 (Rep. Randall); H.R. 2389 (Rep. Randall); H.R. 2556 (Rep. Hunt); H.R. 2876 (Rep. Moore of UT); H.R. 3168 (Rep. Valadao); H.R. 3176 (Rep. Begich); H.R. 3179 (Rep. Babin); and H.R. 3937 (Rep. Tiffany).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, to confirm their Member's attendance at the markup.

I. KEY MESSAGES & TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by regular order: H.R. 261 (Rep. Carter of GA), "*Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025*"; H.R. 725 (Rep. Downing), "*Crow Revenue Act*"; and H.R. 2556 (Rep. Hunt), "*Comprehensive Offshore Resource Enhancement Act of 2025*" or the "*CORE Act of 2025*".
- Please note that H.R. 261, H.R. 725, and H.R. 2556 will each have an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS). Members should ensure that amendments are drafted to the ANS.
- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent: H.R. 131 (Rep. Boebert), "*Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act*"; H.R. 183 (Rep. McClintock), "*Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act*"; H.R. 410 (Rep. Begich), "*Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Extension Act of 2025*"; H.R. 504 (Rep. Gimenez), "*Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act*"; H.R. 655 (Rep. Bentz), "*The Dalles Watershed Development Act*"; H.R. 1276 (Rep. Comer), To remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky.; H.R. 1729 (Rep. Neguse), "*Bolts Ditch Act*"; H.R. 1917 (Rep. Dingell), "*Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025*"; H.R. 2250 (Rep. DelBene), "*National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025*"; H.R. 2316 (Rep. Hurd), "*Wetlands Conservation and Access Improvement Act of 2025*"; H.R. 2388 (Rep. Randall), "*Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands*

Restoration Act"; H.R. 2389 (Rep. Randall), "*Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act*"; H.R. 2876 (Rep. Moore of UT), "*University of Utah Research Park Act*"; H.R. 3168 (Rep. Valadao), "*National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025*"; H.R. 3176 (Rep. Begich), To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr Conservation Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. ; H.R. 3179 (Rep. Babin), To rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the "Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge".; and H.R. 3937 (Rep. Tiffany), "*Wabeno Economic Development Act*".

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

[H.R. 131](#) (Rep. Boebert), "*Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act*"

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Act (P.L. 87-590) into law.¹ This legislation authorized the construction of the Fryingpan-Arkansas project in Colorado "for the purposes of supplying water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses, generating and transmitting hydroelectric power and energy, and controlling floods."² The authorized infrastructure included the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC), a series of pipelines that would provide roughly 7,500 acre-feet of water per year, serving as many as 50,000 people.³

According to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), "the AVC was not constructed with the original project, primarily because AVC beneficiaries were unable to repay all construction costs as required in the original authorizing legislation."⁴ The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11) amended the project's cost share to provide 100 percent federal construction financing, and 35 percent nonfederal repayment over a 50-year period, starting after project completion.⁵ Additionally, the economic challenges faced across the country in recent years due to inflation have caused the total cost of this project to nearly double from \$640 million to \$1.3 billion.⁶ H.R. 131 addresses these challenges by eliminating interest payments for the nonfederal costs and doubling the repayment period from 50 years to 100 years.

An amendment will be offered that changes the repayment period from 100 years, as proposed in the legislation introduced, back to 50 years. The amendment will also alter the interest associated with repayment. While the introduced legislation would have a zero interest rate, the amendment requires a simple interest rate equal to 50 percent of the interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Interior. This amendment changes the bill to match [S. 5013](#) in the 118th Congress, which passed through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf – Eastern Colorado Area Office. Arkansas Valley Conduit. <https://www.usbr.gov/gp/ecao/avc/>.

² [P.L. 87-590](#).

³ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf – Eastern Colorado Area Office. Arkansas Valley Conduit. <https://www.usbr.gov/gp/ecao/avc/>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 10/11/24. <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09/91124-pending-legislation-touton-hnr.pdf>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ "Rep. Boebert Introduces Bill to Complete the Arkansas Valley Conduit." Congresswoman Lauren Boebert. 10/10/24. <https://boebert.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-boebert-introduces-bill-complete-arkansas-valley-conduit>.

H.R. 131, as introduced, is identical to [H.R. 9514](#) in the 118th Congress. Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov).

[H.R. 183](#) (Rep. McClintock), “*Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act*”

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) authorizes federal agencies to issue annual entrance passes, granting access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas.⁷ Since FLREA’s enactment, Congress incrementally expanded eligibility for free or discounted passes to seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, active-duty military personnel, and Gold Star Families.⁸ Most recently, Congress made free, lifetime passes permanent for veterans and Gold Star Families through the 2021 Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act.⁹ H.R. 183, the “Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act,” builds on this by offering free annual passes to federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers. This bill recognizes law enforcement officers’ vital role in protecting federal lands and ensuring public safety, especially through search and rescue operations and crime prevention.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

[H.R. 261](#) (Rep. Carter of GA), “*Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025*”

Undersea cables have connected continents for over 170 years¹⁰ and “carr[y] about 95% of intercontinental global internet traffic, and 99% of transoceanic digital communications... including trillions in international financial transactions daily.”¹¹ In 2023, the global market for this technology was valued at \$23 billion, and is projected to more than double to \$53 billion by 2030.¹² Notably, no new cables have been laid in existing national marine sanctuaries for over two decades due to bureaucratic regulations under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), especially the NMSA provision that requires developers to obtain a Special Use Permit (SUP). H.R. 261 addresses this challenge by amending the NMSA to disallow the Secretary of Commerce from prohibiting or requiring “any authorization for the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national

⁷ 16 U.S. Code § 6804.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ H.R. 4300; became law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

¹⁰ Congressional Research Service. Undersea Telecommunication Cables: Technology Overview and Issues for Congress. September 13, 2022. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47237>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Global Industry Analysts. Submarine Optical Fiber Cables. July 2024. <https://www.marketresearch.com/Global-Industry-Analysts-v1039/Submarine-Optical-Fiber-Cables-37720172/>.

marine sanctuary,” which includes SUPs. This will allow the existing, robust regulatory process to continue.

This legislation also furthers the mission and goal of two of President Trump’s Executive Orders (EOs). First, EO 14179 titled “Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence.”¹³ Enhancing connectivity using undersea cables will be critical as the deployment of artificial intelligence and its related technologies continues to increase. Additionally, EO 14267 titled “Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers”¹⁴ begins “the process for eliminating anti-competitive regulations to revitalize the American economy.”¹⁵ This aligns with the impact that removing the requirement for a SUP when permitting these cables within national marine sanctuaries.

An ANS will be introduced at markup to clarify the removal of the SUP from the regulatory process for undersea cables.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Kirby Struhar (Kirby.Struhar@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 410 (Rep. Begich), “*Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Extension Act of 2025*”

In the 116th Congress, Congress established the Alaska Native Vietnam-era Veterans Land Allotment Program. The provision authorized eligible veterans, or their heirs, to select an allotment of up to 160 acres of certain federal land. This provision authorized a five-year application period beginning after final regulations were issued, from December 28, 2020, to December 29, 2025.¹⁶

On January 20, 2025, President Trump reinstated several revoked Public Land Orders (PLOs) through an EO titled “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential”. This EO also required the Department of the Interior (DOI) to review all PLOs to ensure that Interior’s actions are consistent with several Alaska related statutes, including the Alaska Native Vietnam-era Veterans Land Allotment Program.¹⁷

H.R. 410 would extend the Alaska Native Vietnam-era Veterans Land Allotment Program five years to end on December 29, 2030, rather than the current end date of December 29, 2025. This extension would enable the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue outreach to the

¹³ Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025. “Executive Order 14179 – Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence.” <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-31/pdf/2025-02172.pdf>

¹⁴ Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025. “Executive Order 14267 – Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers.” <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-04-15/pdf/2025-06463.pdf>

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Murray, Mariel. *Alaska Native Lands and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA): Overview and Selected Issues for Congress*. CRS. December 2021. <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R46997?source=search#fn130>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

estimated 150 Alaska Native Vietnam veterans that do not have addresses on file with BLM and who are eligible for up to 160 acres of federal land in Alaska.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff Contact: Ken Degenfelder (Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov) and Kirstin Liddell (Kirstin.Liddell@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 504 (Rep. Gimenez), “Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act”

In 1998, Congress passed the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act (MRAA) which replaced a SUP with a permanent framework for the tribe’s occupancy in the Florida Everglades. The MRAA authorized the tribe’s use of the area, declaring it the Miccosukee Reserve Area (MRA) as Indian Country.

The MRAA did not, however, include the area known as the Osceola Camp, a residential tribal village within the Everglades National Park. The Osceola Camp is currently subject to a SUP renewal by the National Park Service (NPS).

H.R. 504 would amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to include the Osceola Camp as part of the Miccosukee Reserved Area. The bill also would direct the Secretary of the Interior to consult with the tribe and then take appropriate actions to protect the structures within the area from flooding.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Ken Degenfelder (Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov) and Kirstin Liddell (Kirstin.Liddell@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 655 (Rep. Bentz), “The Dalles Watershed Development Act”

Settled along the Columbia River, The Dalles is the largest city in northcentral Oregon’s Wasco County.¹⁸ The Dalles relies on the Crow Creek Reservoir, located in the Mt. Hood National Forest, for 80 percent of its water supply.¹⁹ While the city owns much of the reservoir and surrounding watershed, portions extend onto U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, requiring a

¹⁸ Susan Buce, “The Dalles,” The Oregon Encyclopedia, April 5, 2024, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/the_dalles/. Wasco County Watersheds, “The Dalles Watershed,” accessed March 24, 2025, <https://www.wascowatersheds.org/the-dalles>. Congressman Bentz Introduces Legislation to Improve the City of The Dalles, January 30, 2025, <https://bentz.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-bentz-introduces-legislation-improve-city-dalles-water-security>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

burdensome SUP to access and maintain critical infrastructure.²⁰ With a growing population and plans to expand the reservoir's capacity from 900 to 3,000 acre-feet, The Dalles needs greater control over its watershed.²¹ H.R. 655 addresses this issue by transferring approximately 150 acres of National Forest System land to city ownership, eliminating costly red tape and saving an estimated \$150,000.²² This legislation would enhance water security, streamline reservoir operations, and reduce the federal estate.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 725 (Rep. Downing), “Crow Revenue Act”

H.R. 725 would transfer approximately 4,600 acres of private subsurface inholdings from the Hope Family Tracts on the Crow Reservation to the Crow Tribe of Montana. In exchange for this transfer, the Hope Family Trust would receive 4,530 acres of federal subsurface and 940 acres of federal surface interest. H.R. 725 contains a Revenue Sharing Agreement for the development of the mineral estate conveyed to the Hope Family Trust, which will be determined by the Tribe and the Hope Family Trust should any interest be developed.

Signal Peak Energy currently operates the only underground coal mine in Montana, the Bull Mountain Mine. However, due to federal coal tracts that run in a checkerboard ownership pattern across the area, the mine will soon run out of accessible recoverable reserves.

H.R. 725 is substantially similar to H.R. 8952 from the 118th Congress, which received a hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.²³ However, H.R. 725 addresses several concerns raised by including language to temporarily prevent new mining claims, leases, or other land use applications on the tracts involved in the exchange process until the transfer is complete, protecting the process from outside interference. It also gives further clarity on lease relinquishment by providing that the Secretary of the Interior shall accept relinquishment of the Bull Mountains lease within 60 days, and conditions the conveyance on that relinquishment occurring first. Further, H.R. 725 corrects an ambiguity in the Revenue Sharing Agreement by specifying that it covers the mineral estate conveyed to the Hope Family Trust. H.R. 725 also adds standard language ensuring that all conveyances are subject to valid existing rights.

²⁰ Per the map entitled, “The Dalles Conveyance Parcel A” and dated November 4, 2024. This map is on file with the Committee. Tom Peterson, “TD watershed needs an Act of Congress in move against climate change,” CCC News, January 25, 2025, <https://columbiacommunityconnection.com/the-dalles/td-watershed-needs-an-act-of-congress-in-move-against-climate-change>.

²¹ *Id.* Cole Goodwin, “Population Growth in The Dalles is Slowing But More Housing is Still Needed,” CCC News, December 14, 2023, <https://columbiacommunityconnection.com/the-dalles/population-growth-in-the-dalles-is-slowing-but-more-housing-is-still-needed>.

²² *Id.*

²³ House Natural Resources. Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. “Legislative Hearing on H.R. 7662, H.R. 7807, H.R. 8952 & H.R. 10005.” November 19, 2024. <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=416669>.

The Crow Tribe is supportive of H.R. 725, which also aligns with the Trump Administration’s policy of promoting domestic energy production and supporting the domestic coal industry. H.R. 725 furthers policies set forth in EO 14154, “Unleashing American Energy,” by streamlining federal land transactions and removing regulatory barriers that have delayed mining development on domestic land.²⁴ H.R. 725 also furthers policies set forth in EO 14261, “Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241,” by removing Federal regulatory barriers that undermine coal production.²⁵

An ANS will be offered at the markup that will add language authorizing a surface land exchange between the U.S. and Musselshell Resources, LLC to convey surface interest rights to 959 acres to the U.S. for public access.

Hearing information for the substantially similar bill in the 118th Congress, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo and map for the proposed parcels to be placed into trust may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Ken Degenfelder (Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Hulehan (Hannah.Hulehan@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 1276 (Rep. Comer), To remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky.

For more than 60 years, the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club of Paducah (Club) has offered McCracken County youth a safe, affordable space for recreation and mentorship.²⁶ The Club’s current site was transferred to the City of Paducah through NPS’s Federal Lands to Parks Program, and NPS retains a deed restriction on the land.²⁷ This restriction now hinders a major renovation effort to expand classrooms and refurbish the Club’s gym.²⁸ H.R. 1276, introduced by Representative Comer, would remove this restriction, allowing the City to transfer full ownership to the Club. The bill would eliminate an outdated federal barrier, enabling long-overdue improvements and expanding access to educational and recreational opportunities for local youth.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

²⁴ Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025. “Executive Order 14154—Unleashing American Energy.”

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-202500121/pdf/DCPD-202500121.pdf>.

²⁵ Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025. “Executive Order 14261, Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241.” <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-04-14/pdf/2025-06380.pdf>.

²⁶ Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club of Paducah, “About Us”, accessed April 21, 2025, <https://www.ocbg.club/about-us/>.

²⁷ The Office of Congressman James Comer, “Comer Introduces Legislation to Remove Federal Government Restrictions on Paducah, Kentucky, Property,” February 13, 2025, <https://comer.house.gov/2025/2/comer-introduces-legislation-to-remove-federal-government-restrictions-on-paducah-kentucky-property>. National Park Service, Federal Lands to Parks Program.

²⁸ Jeremiah Hatcher, “Comer talks Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club land transfer Bill”, The Paducah Sun, February 25, 2025, https://www.paducahsun.com/news/comer-talks-oscar-cross-boys-girls-club-land-transfer-bill/article_99479980-5501-58bd86bc-a4053c84c38e.html.

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 1729 (Rep. Neguse), “*Bolts Ditch Act*”

Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate are water facilities located near the town of Minturn, Colorado, that divert water into Bolts Lake.²⁹ In 1980, Congress established the Holy Cross Wilderness in the White River and San Isabel National Forests but inadvertently failed to include Bolts Ditch in a list of existing water facilities excluded from the designation, meaning that the structure could not be rebuilt or repaired for more than three decades.³⁰ The inability to rehabilitate and rebuild the Bolts Ditch Headgate stymied development in the area, as any new development would require the expansion of Bolts Lake to provide a water supply for surrounding homes.³¹ In 2019, Congress passed the “John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act” (“Dingell Act”), which included a provision allowing the Town of Minturn to access the Bolts Ditch Headgate for “the diversion of water and use, maintenance, and repair of such ditch and headgate.”³² H.R. 1729, the “Bolts Ditch Act,” amends the Dingell Act to allow the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority to also conduct maintenance and repairs on the ditch and headgate. This commonsense change will improve the efficiency and operation of the headgate and lead to greater economic opportunity for the community of Minturn.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 1917 (Rep. Dingell), “*Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025*”

According to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries in the five Great Lakes are home to 177 different species of fish, including 139 native species.³³ These tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries have an economic value of more than \$7 billion annually³⁴ and support up to 75,000 jobs.³⁵

H.R. 1917 would codify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) existing Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, which began in 2010. The activities carried out by this program include

²⁹ Vail Daily, “Federal Legislation authorizes repairs on Bolts Ditch above Minturn”, <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/federal-legislation-authorizes-repairs-on-bolts-ditch-above-minturn/>.

³⁰ U.S. Forest Service, “Holy Cross Wilderness”, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/psicc/recreation#:~:text=Holy%20Cross%20Wilderness%2C%20established%20in,a%20nd%20White%20River%20National%20Forests.>

³¹ *Id.*

³² Public Law No. 116-9, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47/text>.

³³ Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The Great Lakes Fishery: A world-class resource! <http://www.glfc.org/the-fishery.php>.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.*

tagging hatchery fish stocked in the great lakes and assisting in cooperative fisheries management decisions with states and tribes by producing data on the health of the fishery.³⁶ The bill would authorize \$5 million per fiscal year (FY) from FY 2026 through FY 2030 to carry out this program. An amendment will be offered to lower the authorization level to \$2.7 million, which is what the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program currently receives in funding.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Kirby Struhar (Kirby.Struhar@mail.house.gov) and Thomas Shipman (Thomas.Shipman@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2250 (Rep. DelBene), “*National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025*”

The National Landslides Preparedness Act (NLPA) is a bipartisan bill that passed by suspension in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress and was signed into law on January 5, 2021.³⁷ The NLPA established the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program (NLHRP) and the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), authorizing both programs from 2021 to 2024. These programs allow the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to gather data to enable states and communities to reduce loss in the event of a landslide. The NLPA also charges the USGS with mapping and researching landslide hazards, responding to landslides, and coordinating with state, local, territorial, and tribal entities to reduce landslide risks.³⁸ The goal of 3DEP is to establish high-quality topographic elevation data of the entire U.S., enabling better understanding of landslides and why they occur.³⁹ 3DEP allows the USGS to gather new topography data and study how landslides shift the landscape from one year to the next. This information allows USGS and state governments to develop plans and procedures to minimize losses from landslides.

H.R. 2250 reauthorizes NLHRP at \$35 million per year until FY 2030, which represents an increase of \$10 million annually. It also authorizes 3DEP through FY 2030 at the current authorization of appropriations level of \$40 million per year.⁴⁰

An ANS will be offered by Representative Huffman (D-CA-02) to lower the authorization level to the same level as the previous authorization.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

³⁶ “Restoring the Great Lakes: Success stories from a decade of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.” Charlie Wooley and Wendi Weber. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. March 2020. <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/GLRI-Restoring-Great-Lakes-Decade-Retrospective.pdf>.

³⁷ CRS. Enactment of the National Landslide Preparedness Act, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11008>.

³⁸ Public Law 116–323.

³⁹ USGS. 3D Elevation Program. <https://www.usgs.gov/3d-elevation-program>.

⁴⁰ 43 U.S.C. § 3104 section (e).

Staff contacts: Lonnie Smith (Lonnie.Smith@mail.house.gov) and Rob MacGregor (Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2316 (Rep. Hurd), “*Wetlands Conservation and Access Improvement Act of 2025*”

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson), enacted in 1937, distributes federal aid to all 50 states and five U.S. territories to carry out wildlife restoration, conservation, and hunter education and safety programs. Revenue for Pittman-Robertson is generated through an excise tax on all firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.⁴¹

H.R. 2316 extends the period in which the interest accrued on unallocated Pittman-Robertson funds can be used to supplement congressional appropriations to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This provision is set to expire on September 30, 2025.⁴² Without reauthorization of this provision, the interest would be distributed to states and territories under the current Pittman-Robertson apportionment formula. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents the states, is supportive of H.R. 2316.⁴³

Hearing Information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Doug Levine (Doug.Levine@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2388 (Rep. Randall), “*Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act*”

H.R. 2388 would take approximately 1,083 acres of NPS land into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in northwest Washington. The NPS acquired most of this land in the 1990s through the Elwha River Ecosystems and Fisheries Restoration Act (Elwha Act). Under the Elwha Act, the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams were to be removed in an effort to restore the Elwha River and the native Anadromous fisheries (i.e. species of salmon and trout). The Elwha Dam removal began in 2011 and ended in 2014. The Elwha Act also required the NPS to identify lands to transfer to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for housing, cultural, or economic development purposes and place them into trust. The remaining land was acquired by DOI to construct a surface water pipeline for the tribe’s fish hatchery.⁴⁴ Gaming, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, would be prohibited on these lands.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

⁴¹ “The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.” Mark DeSantis, Pervaze Sheikh, Erin Ward. Congressional Research Service. 10/12/2022. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12229>.

⁴² [16 U.S.C. 669b](#).

⁴³ “Support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.” Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Resolution 2024-05-10. https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/6117/2778/9800/Compilation_of_resolutions_2024.pdf.

⁴⁴ Senator Maria Cantwell. Cantwell, Murray, Randall Introduce Legislation to Place Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation Lands into Trust. April 18, 2025. <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-murray-randall-introduce-legislation-to-place-lower-elwha-klallam-tribe-and-quinault-indian-nation-lands-into-trust#:~:text=This%20bill%20would%20transfer%20three,dams%20along%20the%20Elwha%20River>.

Staff contacts: Ken Degenfelder (Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov) and Kirstin Liddell (Kirstin.Liddell@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2389 (Rep. Randall), “*Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act*”

The Treaty of Olympia, agreed to between 1855 and 1856, established the Quinault Indian Reservation. However, the Treaty was effectively dismissed with the passage of the General Allotment Act (GAA),⁴⁵ and the Quinault Indian Nation found their lands separated into 2,340 80-acre allotments to individual members.⁴⁶ One of these, Allotment 1157, was part of Quinault’s reservation when it was formed, but was allotted in 1928 under the GAA and was later sold in 1960s. In 1996, the Trust for Public Lands purchased the property with federal funds and, in turn, sold it to USFS for approximately \$3 million.⁴⁷ Since then, USFS has managed the land, which covers approximately 72 acres.⁴⁸

H.R. 2389 would place the 72 acres known as Allotment 1157 into trust for the Quinault Indian Nation. Gaming on these lands, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, would be prohibited.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Ken Degenfelder (Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Hulehan (Hannah.Hulehan@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2556 (Rep. Hunt), “*Comprehensive Offshore Resource Enhancement Act of 2025*” or the “*CORE Act of 2025*”

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) governs the exploration, development, and production of energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS),⁴⁹ while the Energy Policy Act of 2005 mandates periodic inventories of these resources by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).⁵⁰ However, BOEM’s resource assessments have shown significant inconsistencies, with estimates fluctuating by as much as 30 billion barrels of oil and 100 trillion cubic feet of gas between the 2016 and 2021 reports—variations not attributable to production but rather to outdated or manipulated methodologies.⁵¹ These include seismic data from the

⁴⁵ Act of February 8, 1887, Ch. 119, 24 Stat. 388.

⁴⁶ Briefing Paper and Background on H.R. 9371, the Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act. Sept. 2024. On file.

⁴⁷ Briefing Paper and Background on H.R. 9371, the Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act. Sept. 2024. On file.

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ 43 U.S.C. 1331.

⁵⁰ 42 U.S.C. 15912.

⁵¹ Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 2016 National Assessment Map: Undiscovered, Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources, Beaufort OCS Planning Area, U.S. Department of the Interior, https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/oil-and-gas-energy-program/Resource-Evaluation/Resource-Assessment/2016_National_Assessment_Map_BOE_COLORS_BEAUFORT.pdf.

& Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, *Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources of the Nation’s Outer Continental Shelf, 2021*, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/national-program/2021%20National%20Assessment%20Map%20BOE%20COLORS%20UpdatedScale.pdf>.

1960s and modeling techniques developed in the late 1990s, despite advancements in geophysical, geological, and analytical technologies, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.⁵² Meanwhile, unresolved transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs along U.S. maritime borders with countries like Canada, Mexico, Russia, and the Bahamas remain underdeveloped due to a lack of coordinated frameworks. Disputes over maritime boundaries—such as those with Canada—jeopardize existing leases and hinder energy security.⁵³

The CORE Act of 2025 addresses these challenges by requiring the Secretaries of Energy, Interior, and State to modernize BOEM’s resource-assessment process with cutting-edge technology and standardized methodologies, reviewed every ten years. The bill mandates a comprehensive report within 18 months on transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, assessing their economic, environmental, and geopolitical implications, and recommending frameworks for joint exploration and production with neighboring nations. It also directs a comparative analysis of offshore production practices among major producing countries every 10 years to enhance U.S. competitiveness. Additionally, the legislation updates the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to include detailed economic and national security analyses of undiscovered OCS resources and instructs the Department of State to pursue diplomatic resolutions for disputed maritime zones, such as those with Canada, where lease disputes have lingered for over a decade in some cases.

H.R. 2556 aligns with the Trump Administration’s policy of promoting domestic energy production and furthers policies set forth in EO 14154, “Unleashing American Energy,”⁵⁴ by modernizing offshore resource assessments, promoting transboundary joint exploration and increasing U.S. competitiveness in the global market. It would also further the policies in EO 14153, “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential,”⁵⁵ by maximizing the development potential of Alaska’s offshore energy resources. The bill, which includes formal Technical Assistance from BOEM, was introduced on April 1, 2025, by Representative Wesley Hunt (R-TX-38). An ANS will be offered by Representative Hunt to make certain technical edits.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Rob MacGregor (Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov) and Will King (Will.King@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 2876 (Rep. Moore of UT), “*University of Utah Research Park Act*”

⁵² Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 2016a National Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and Gas Resources of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, U.S. Department of the Interior, January 2018, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/oil-and-gas-energy-program/Resource-Evaluation/Resource-Assessment/2016a-National-Assessment-of-Undiscovered-Oil-and-Gas-Resources.pdf>.

⁵³ An Old Problem, a New Opportunity: A Case for Solving the Beaufort Sea Boundary Dispute," The Arctic Institute, June 17, 2016, <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/an-old-problem-a-new-opportunity-a-case-for-solving-the-beaufort-sea-boundary-dispute/>.

⁵⁴ Executive Order 14154, The White House, January 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>.

⁵⁵ Executive Order 14153, The White House, January 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-alaskas-extraordinary-resource-potential/>.

H.R. 2876 would affirm the current uses of approximately 593 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, currently owned by the University of Utah. Originally patented by the BLM in 1968, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the land was intended for academic use only.⁵⁶ Over the past five decades, the University developed the parcel into Research Park, a thriving research and innovation hub supporting more than 50 companies, 81 university departments, and over 14,000 employees.⁵⁷ Although the Park has long served the University’s mission, its commercial tenants place it technically out of compliance with the original patent.⁵⁸ H.R. 2876 would resolve this issue by affirming the current uses of the Park, allowing existing operations to continue, and enabling future plans for walkability, student housing, and new laboratories.⁵⁹ This would functionally remove the reversionary interest on the parcel, allowing the University to continue developing the Park with certainty and free from federal interference.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 3168 (Rep. Valadao), “*National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025*”

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) was first authorized in 1977⁶⁰ with the goal of managing the impacts of earthquakes on life, property, and the economy.⁶¹ The program was designed to achieve this goal through a large, coordinated effort between the community of earthquake professionals in academia, businesses, government agencies, and codes and standards organizations that develop earthquake building codes.⁶² NEHRP is a joint agency effort led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), with help from the USGS, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).⁶³ These agencies work together to conduct science, but they also have individual goals for mitigating damage from earthquakes.

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior, “Recreation and public Purposes Land Patent to the University of Utah” October 18, 1968, <https://d182hggomw8pjd.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/08/05141720/1968-10th-US-Grant-Land-Patent.pdf>.

⁵⁷ The Office of Senator Mike Lee, “University of Utah Research Park Act,” November 2, 2021, https://republicansnaturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2021.11.3_Research_Park_continuation.pdf.

⁵⁸ Brian Maffly, “U Looks to Congress for Help Securing Future of Research Park.” @theU, University of Utah, 30 Apr. 2025, <https://attheu.utah.edu/facilities/u-looks-to-congress-for-help-securing-future-of-research-park/>.

⁵⁹ Tony Semerad, “University of Utah plans major revamp of research park on Foothill Drive, adding lots of housing,” The Salt Lake Tribune, June 9, 2020, <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2020/06/09/dense-walkable-amenity/>.

⁶⁰ 42 U.S.C. 7704.

⁶¹ FEMA, The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Overview, https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nehrp_overview_fact_sheet.pdf#:~:text=The%20role%20of%20NEHRP%20is%20to%20coordinate,reduce%20the%20costs%20of%20losses%20and%20recovery.&text=Under%20NEHRP%2C%20FEMA%20is%20responsible%20for%20developing,development%20of%20disaster-resistant%20building%20codes%20and%20standards.

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ CRS Reports, The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP): Overview and Issues for Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R43141>.

NEHRP has been reauthorized several times, most recently in 2018.⁶⁴ The 2018 reauthorization established the first operational earthquake early warning system in the United States, aptly named ShakeAlert.⁶⁵ Currently, ShakeAlert operates in California, Oregon, and Washington and aims to provide alerts to people who are in the affected areas of an earthquake.⁶⁶ This application, run by the USGS, alerts an individual's phone or other electronic device, notifying them that an earthquake has been detected. The application has been successfully integrated into several industries across the West Coast, specifically on the Metrolink in southern California⁶⁷ where it has been integrated into Metrolink's Positive Train Control systems to automatically slow or stop trains when an alert is received.⁶⁸

H.R. 3168 reauthorizes NEHRP through FY 2030 and maintains the previous authorization level of \$83.4 million per year.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Lonnie Smith (Lonnie.Smith@mail.house.gov) and Rob MacGregor (Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 3176 (Rep. Begich), To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

The National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System (NVEWS)⁶⁹ was established in 2019 through the Dingell Act.⁷⁰ This program was new in 2019 and falls under the Volcano Hazards Program (VHP), which has existed since 1980 and is also administered by USGS.⁷¹ Congress authorized appropriations of \$55 million for NVEWS from FY 2019 through FY 2023. In FY 2022, Congress appropriated an additional \$2.2 million for NVEWS implementation and \$1.8 million for the Mount Rainier lahar detection system out of the \$33.3 million appropriated to the VHP.⁷² The authorization for NVEWS expired at the end of FY 2023, but its programs have continued to operate as a part of the VHP.

The United States currently has about 170 young volcanoes, and roughly half of those pose a threat due to their proximity to communities and the intensity of their eruptions.⁷³ Many of these

⁶⁴ P.L. 115-307.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ ShakeAlert, Case Studies, <https://www.shakealert.org/education-and-outreach/case-studies/>.

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ 43 U.S.C. 31k.

⁷⁰ P.L. 116-9.

⁷¹ USGS, California Roots of the USGS volcano Hazards Program, <https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/calvo/news/california-roots-usgs-volcano-hazards-program#:~:text=This%20new%20program%20fulfilled%20a,the%20former%20Geothermal%20Research%20Program.>

⁷² CRS Reports, The National Volcano Early Warning System, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11987>.

⁷³ USGS, National Volcano Early Warning System - monitoring volcanoes according to their threat, <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/VHP/national-volcano-early-warning-system-monitoring-volcanoes-according-their-threat>.

volcanoes are not adequately monitored, and others have no monitoring equipment.⁷⁴ The goal of NVEWS is to monitor the most active and hazardous volcanoes to give ample time to evacuate the communities in the areas surrounding these volcanoes.⁷⁵

H.R. 3176 reauthorizes NVEWS through FY 2030 and maintains the previous authorization level of \$55 million over 5 years.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Lonnie Smith (Lonnie.Smith@mail.house.gov) and Rob MacGregor (Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 3179 (Rep. Babin, R-TX), To rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”

Jocelyn Nungaray was a 12-year-old girl from Houston, Texas, whose life was tragically cut short on June 16, 2024, when she was murdered by two Venezuelan nationals.⁷⁶ Given that the suspects entered the U.S. illegally and are alleged members of the notorious Tren de Aragua gang, Jocelyn’s death quickly garnered national attention and renewed calls for more stringent immigration policies.⁷⁷

To permanently commemorate Ms. Nungaray, who was known for her special affinity for animals, President Trump signed EO 14229 on March 4, 2025, which directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to change the name of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.⁷⁸ The refuge was renamed on March 7, 2025, when Secretary Doug Burgum signed a Secretary’s Order to implement President Trump’s EO.⁷⁹ H.R. 3179, introduced by Representative Brian Babin on May 5, 2025, would codify the EO to ensure that this renaming cannot be overturned by a future administration without Congressional action.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Doug Levine (Doug.Levine@mail.house.gov) and Kirby Struhar (Kirby.Struhar@mail.house.gov).

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ “Department of the Interior Renames Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Honor of Jocelyn Nungaray,” March 10, 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3425-renaming-anahuac-national-wildlife-refuge-honor-jocelyn>.

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ Executive Order 14229, The White House, March 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/honoring-jocelyn-nungaray/>.

⁷⁹ Secretary Order 3425, U.S. Department of the Interior, March 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3425-renaming-anahuac-national-wildlife-refuge-honor-jocelyn>.

H.R. 3937 (Rep. Tiffany), “Wabeno Economic Development Act”

Nearly half of Forest County, Wisconsin, or approximately 350,000 acres, is federally owned as part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, limiting opportunities for local economic development and business growth.⁸⁰ One such business is Tony’s Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, a small concrete supplier in Wabeno that has served the surrounding 50-mile area for more than 22 years and employs 17 people.⁸¹ Facing a dwindling supply of aggregate (i.e. stone, sand, and gravel) materials necessary for its operations, the company sought to acquire a 14-acre parcel of adjacent USFS land but encountered years of delay.⁸² To resolve this, the “Wabeno Economic Development Act” would require USFS to convey the land to the company at fair market value. Supported by local stakeholders, the bill promotes rural economic development and calls for a nationwide review by the DOI of federal permitting delays for aggregate mining on federal land.⁸³ This legislation aims to streamline permitting and bolster domestic supplies of key construction materials that are critical to expanding and constructing new infrastructure projects.⁸⁴

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and William Kelleher (William.Kelleher@mail.house.gov).

III. CBO SCORES

None available.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 131

H.R. 183

H.R. 261

H.R. 410

H.R. 504

H.R. 1729

H.R. 2250

H.R. 2316

H.R. 2556

H.R. 3168

H.R. 3176

⁸⁰ Forest County Forestry and Recreation Department, “Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest”, <https://forestcountywi.com/education-and-resources#>.

⁸¹ City-Data.com, “Wabeno, Wisconsin”, <https://www.city-data.com/city/Wabeno-Wisconsin.html>. Letter to U.S. Representative Tom Tiffany, Tony Smith, January 11, 2022, https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Copy_of_letter.pdf.

⁸² *Id.*

⁸³ “Letters of Support, Tony Smith,” U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Tony_Smith_Letters_of_Support.pdf.

⁸⁴ Association of Equipment Manufacturers, “Construction Aggregates 101: What They Are (And Why They Matter)”, Sara Feuling, August 7, 2023, <https://www.aem.org/news/construction-aggregates-101-what-they-are-and-why-they-matter>. National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA), Coalition Letter to House Committee on Natural Resources Leadership Supporting BUILDER Act of 2023, March 7, 2023, https://www.nssga.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/230307_Coalition_BUILDERAct_HouseNaturalResources.pdf.