



FROM HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & COMMERCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

FACT SHEET ON REPUBLICANS' H.R. 1

THE "POLLUTERS OVER PEOPLE" ACT

H.R. 1 is not an "all of the above" energy bill to help lower costs for Americans — it is a polluters above all bill to increase profits for Republicans' industry friends.

H.R. 1 is a shameless giveaway to polluters, consisting almost entirely of handouts and new loopholes for the oil, gas, and mining industries. The bill does not address or even reference clean energy, even though it is the [cheapest form of energy](#).

OIL AND GAS GIVEAWAYS: Big Oil is already making [record-shattering profits](#) by taking advantage of billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded subsidies, hoarding [thousands of unused leases](#) on millions of acres of public lands, and price gouging working families at the pump. H.R. 1 would pad fossil fuel executives' pockets even more.

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) included multiple oil and gas leasing reforms to ensure Americans are finally paid a fair share for onshore and offshore fossil fuel extraction. H.R. 1 rolls back these reforms by lowering royalty rates, repealing interest fees, and reinstating noncompetitive leasing.
- H.R. 1 rubber-stamps the construction of new natural gas pipelines – which is already frighteningly easy – while shutting every agency, apart from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, out of the review process.
- H.R. 1 removes the requirement that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports be determined to be in the public interest before being sent overseas, tearing down guardrails that prevent our adversaries from purchasing more of our energy to use against us.
- H.R. 1 forces agencies to hold oil and gas lease sales on public lands, even if they aren't needed. If these sales don't get enough bids, replacement sales must be held—giving our public lands away at cut-rate prices.

The U.S. is already the [world's top producer of oil and gas](#) — we cannot drill our way to energy independence. Instead, we must transition to clean energy, which is more stable, more affordable, and generated entirely here at home.

MINING GIVEAWAYS: Our outdated 150-year-old mining law already gives mining companies a veritable free-for-all on public lands, while doing nothing to protect Americans from the industry's toxic messes. H.R. 1 makes this dangerous status quo worse.

- H.R. 1 allows anyone to stake a mining claim on our public lands for less than \$10 an acre, *even if they haven't discovered any minerals*. After that, any mining activity — including dumping toxic mining waste — is considered the "highest and best use" of those lands.
- H.R. 1 lets mining companies keep taking minerals from public lands without paying anything to the American people or even helping pay the [billions](#) needed to clean up their toxic messes. To date, mining companies – many of which are foreign-owned – have already extracted [an estimated \\$300 billion](#) in minerals from public lands and caused untold damage, without paying a single dime to American taxpayers.

- H.R. 1 does nothing to improve tribal consultation, even though the [vast majority](#) of minerals needed for clean energy are located within 35 miles of tribal lands.

Our clean energy transition will require new minerals, but mining must not come at the cost of our health, our environment, or our special places. We must reform our outdated mining system to raise the bar for mining both in the U.S. and across the globe.

H.R. 1 puts Americans in harm’s way by gutting our bedrock environmental and public health laws and ignoring the climate crisis — all in the name of fast-tracking polluter projects.

SELLING OUT CLEAN AIR AND SAFE DRINKING WATER: H.R. 1 masquerades as “energy security” when in reality it only sets the stage for more dangerous chemical disasters, more toxic air, more unsafe drinking water, and substantially weaker environmental and public health protections.

- H.R. 1 weakens enforcement of nearly all environmental and public health laws by dramatically limiting the statute of limitations for unlawful permit decisions — like those required by the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act — to 120 days. Communities likely do not even know what projects are permitted, let alone the consequences of those permits until well after 120 days. The bill also blocks lawsuits from anyone who did not participate in public comment periods, which are also shortened by the bill.
- H.R. 1 is drafted so broadly that it exempts all so-called “critical energy resource” facilities – such as petroleum refineries that release air toxics like benzene and use hydrofluoric acid linked to catastrophic chemical disasters – from commonsense Clean Air Act and hazardous waste permitting requirements. It also grants these facilities amnesty for any violations of federal, state, or local environmental law.
- H.R. 1 completely erodes the new chemicals review process under the bipartisan Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), allowing new chemicals – even PFAS – on the market without any consideration of safety. These safeguards passed on a bipartisan basis in the 2016 TSCA reform law.

Republicans are only interested in legislating if it benefits their polluter friends – even if it means creating enormous loopholes in our most bedrock environmental laws.

POLLUTER-REQUESTED “PERMITTING REFORM:” The only “permitting reform” in H.R. 1 is the gutting of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a longstanding polluter request. As [industry representatives have already said](#), this attack on NEPA will not help accelerate the energy projects we need; [less than 1% of projects](#) even go through NEPA’s full, detailed environmental review.

In reality, the main reason for project delays at the federal level is a [lack of agency resources and staff capacity](#). Fortunately, Democrats already passed more than \$1 billion in the IRA for federal agency permitting offices, which will address this issue and is expected to drastically shrink the timelines for permitting.

- H.R. 1 codifies the reckless, extreme Trump-era NEPA regulations, which were [widely opposed by House Democrats](#), into law. These changes prohibit agencies from properly considering climate change and the cumulative impacts of multiple sources of pollution in permitting decisions, among other bad provisions.

- H.R. 1 arbitrarily shortens public comment periods for environmental reviews under NEPA and even allows polluters to conduct their own reviews, creating an obvious conflict of interest. It also requires that these reviews “meet the goals of the [project] applicant,” instead of the public’s interest.
- Outside of NEPA, H.R. 1 allows the owners and operators of “critical energy resource facilities” to bypass public health and environmental safety standards built into the permitting process, directly endangering the safety of the workers and communities near these facilities.
- H.R. 1 also undermines Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which empowers states and Tribes to holistically protect their lakes, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water from development.

The electrical grid we need for a clean energy future will require the buildout of [thousands of miles](#) of high-capacity, long-distance transmission lines. To meet this challenge, we must increase capacity for permitting offices, and reform the [transmission planning and cost allocation process](#). H.R. 1 does neither.

REVERSING PROGRESS ON CLIMATE: H.R. 1 reverses the IRA’s climate and clean energy policies that move us away from our dangerous dependence on fossil fuels and help lower energy bills for American families.

- H.R. 1 repeals the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – a \$27 billion program to deploy clean energy projects and cut greenhouse gas pollution – robbing the American people of good-paying jobs and a healthier future.
- H.R. 1 repeals the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, which curbs methane leaks and excess pollution from the oil and gas industry, protecting our health and ensuring polluters – not taxpayers – pay for their wasted methane.
- H.R. 1 repeals the \$4.5 billion home electrification rebate program designed to lower energy bills for American families.

Republicans are attacking the very clean energy policies that hold polluters accountable, reduce costs for American families, and combat the worsening climate crisis.

While Republicans are putting polluters over people, Democrats are proud to have delivered a historic \$369 billion in climate action and clean energy wins through the IRA.

These investments are creating jobs, cutting costs for working families, and building a homegrown clean energy system – all while tackling the climate crisis.

- Projects already underway due to the investments we made in the IRA are valued at tens of billions of dollars – [about two-thirds](#) of which are in Republican districts, yet they *all* opposed the bill.
- Since passage of the IRA, about [\\$28 billion in new manufacturing investments](#) have been announced and [100,000 good-paying jobs](#) have been created. In total, the IRA will leverage up to [\\$1.7 trillion in new investments](#) over the next ten years.
- The IRA will add an estimated [nine million good-paying jobs](#) over the next ten years.
- The IRA will reduce energy costs for the average American family by about [\\$1,800 a year](#).