

Federal Legislation Update

Prepared for Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee

July 27, 2011

H AMDT 416 to HR2055 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012

Summary of amendment

Prohibits use of funds to enforce section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, which states that Federal agencies cannot procure alternative fuels unless the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with the fuel are less than or equal to those of the convention fuel.

Current Status

6/13/11: Amendment agreed to by voice vote in House.

HR 2112 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012

Pertinent Amendments

H AMDT 422: increases funding for the Rural Energy for America Program by \$1 million

H AMDT 462: prohibits use of funds in the bill to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum-Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

H AMDT 467: prohibits use of funds to implement the Departmental Regulation of the Department of Agriculture entitled "Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation."

H AMDT 475: prohibits use of funds for the construction of an ethanol blender pump or an ethanol storage facility.

Current Status

6/16/2011: Approved in House and referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations (agreed in House with listed amendments 217-203)

HR 2170 Cutting Federal Red Tape to Renewable Energy Act

Summary as reported

Changes compliance with NEPA for Renewable Energy Projects to only require the proposed action and no action alternative to be considered and analyzed.

Current Status

7/13/2011: Ordered to be Reported by House Committee on Natural Resources

HR 2172 Utilizing America's Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act

Summary as reported

Defines onshore meteorological site testing and monitoring projects to be excluded from the NEPA process. Permits must be issued or denied within 30 days of receipt of application.

Current Status

7/13/2011: Ordered to be Reported by House Committee on Natural Resources

HR 2173 Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act

Summary as reported

Defines offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring projects to be excluded from the NEPA process. Permits must be issued or denied within 30 days of receipt of application.

Current Status

7/13/2011: Ordered to be Reported by House Committee on Natural Resources

HR 2354 Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012

Summary as amended

Cuts energy efficiency and renewable energy programs 40% below current 2011 levels. Reduces the budget for innovation programs.

H AMDT 608: An amendment to reduce the EERE account by \$200,000 and apply the savings to the spending amendment.

H AMDT 671: Temporarily ban the use of appropriated funds to pay salaries of DOE employees who carry out the weatherization assistance program created by the 2009 stimulus law

H AMDT 678: Delay implementation of light bulb efficiency rules for one year.

Current Status

7/18/11: Approved in House and referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations.

HR 2417 Better Use of Light Bulbs (BULB) Act

Summary as introduced

Repeals provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 that require an increase in lighting energy efficiency.

Current Status

7/12/11: Failed by a vote of 233-193, 1 present

7/12/11: Motion to reconsider agreed to without objection

7/15/11: Similar measure passed as H AMDT 678 to HR 2354 (energy and water appropriations)

HR 2584 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations

Summary of Committee Draft

Cuts EPA's budget by 18% from 2011 levels and implements a one year suspension on greenhouse gas regulatory authority, suspending any rules, regulations and permits that relate to greenhouse gas emissions. Eliminates EPA Office of Smart Growth.

Adopted amendments include Rep. Lummis' delay of implementation of EPA's rule regulating emissions of mercury and other toxic pollutants from coal-fired plants and Rep. Austria's amendment that prevents EPA from implementing the next wave of GHG emission standards affecting new motor vehicles or granting waivers to allow states to impose their own GHG vehicle standards during the next fiscal year.

Current Status

7/19/11: Placed on calendar in House

HR 2599 PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011

Summary of Committee Draft

The PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011 would rescind the Federal Housing Finance Authority's guidance and affirm the validity of PACE financing. It would define PACE financing as an "assessment," not a "loan." Additionally, this legislation would limit or eliminate risks to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by establishing national program standards such as underwriting criteria, consumer protections, qualifying improvements, and qualifying contractors.

Current Status

7/20/11: Referred to House Committee on Financial Services

S 734 Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2011

Summary as introduced

Authorizes appropriations to the Secretary of Energy for research, development, demonstration and commercial application of vehicles and related technologies for FY2012-FY2016, included nonroad equipment and on-highway equipment and vehicles.

Current Status

7/14/11: Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S AMDT 476 to S 782 Economic Development Revitalization Act of 2011

Summary of amendment

Short title: *Elimination of Excise Tax Credit of Payment*. Eliminates Ethanol Tax Credit and Import Tariff July 31, 2011. Cellulosic biofuel production tax credit extended for 3 years. Small-producer tax credit will expire at the end of 2012. Reduced tax credits for alternative fueling infrastructure will be extended through 2014.

Current Status

6/16/11: Amendment agreed to in Senate (73-27).
6/21/11: Cloture on full bill not invoked. Still being debated in the Senate.

S 1000 Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2011

Summary as reported

Amends Energy Conservation and Production Act and Energy Policy and Conservation Act to have greater energy efficiency in building codes, appliance standards, worker training and capacity building, building efficiency finance, industrial efficiency and competitiveness and federal agency energy efficiency.

Current Status

7/14/11: Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S 1001 Alternative Fuel vehicles Competitiveness and Energy Security Act of 2011

Summary as reported

Includes measures to amend the advanced technology vehicles manufacturing incentive program, develop a conventional fuel replacement calculation and assessment, technical assistance and workforce training each funded at \$50,000,000 annually for FY2012 through FY2016, identify barriers for electric and natural gas utility and oil pipeline transmission, and research, development and demonstration funded at \$100,000,000 annually for FY2012 through FY2016.

Current Status

7/14/11: Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S 1108 10 million Solar Roofs Act of 2011

Summary

Would create a competitive grant program with \$50,000,000 in funds for each fiscal year 2012 through 2016 to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient. The program has an ultimate goal of helping to install solar energy systems on at least 10,000,000 properties by the end of 2020. See additional materials in packet for comment letter sent.

Current Status

7/12/11: Hearings held in Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Clean Energy Financing Act of 2011

Summary as reported

Creates an independent institution dedicated to providing affordable financing for clean energy technologies. Creates the Energy Efficiency Loan Fund which would provide electric and natural gas utilities with access to long term, low interest loans to fund qualifying energy efficiency projects.

Current Status

7/14/11: Passed by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources