

2021-2022 CLIMATE BILL PACKAGE

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a. Presentations: [Florida](#) Version. [General](#)

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MATERIALS	
<p>1. REFRIGERANTS: AMERICAN INNOVATION & MANUFACTURING ACT.</p> <p>Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX), Reps. Scott Peters (D-CA) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) (Overview, Text S2754, Text HR5544, Sponsor Statement,</p>	<p>The AIM Act gives needed certainty to the HVACR industry, delivers a streamlined regulatory procedure and provides consumers with more efficient cooling and refrigeration products. The bill will provide a responsible phase down of HFC’s and will stimulate additional economic benefits by creating an additional 33,000 manufacturing jobs, improving the U.S. trade balance in equipment and chemicals by \$12.5 billion annually and increasing exports by \$5 billion. Studies forecast the overall contribution to the HVACR industry will be 2.5 million jobs and \$621 billion in economic output by 2027. Reps. Scott Peters (D-CA) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) join Tonko and Olson as original co-sponsors.</p> <p>The AIM Leadership Act relies on three key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A market-based allocation system for the producers of HFC compounds that gradually phases down their production and use

<p>Section-by-Section, Group Support). Votes: H28, S34. Lead Sponsor Contact: Laura Gilliam, Sen. Carper's office, (202) 224-6159 Laura_Gilliam@epw.senate.gov v. Lead NGO contact: Alex Hillibrand, NRDC, ahillibrand@nrdc.org.</p> <p>Passed Dec 2020!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A flexible program for future user sectors to achieve the transition of the user technology sectors • A heightened emphasis for improved management of refrigerant substances where relevant <p>Passage of the AIM Act would accomplish three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually phase down the production and consumption of HFCs over a 15-year period via an allowance allocation and trading program • Authorize the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish standards for the management of HFCs used as refrigerants, such as in equipment servicing and repair, and for the recovery of “used” HFCs for purification and resale, allowing for a safe and efficient transition out of HFCs • Authorizing EPA to establish sector-based use restrictions as a way to facilitate transitions to next-generation refrigerant technologies
<p>2. PLASTICS: THE BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Sen. Merkeley (D-OR) & Rep. Lowenthal (D-CA) S.984/H.R.2238 Lead Sponsor Contact: Shane Trimmer, Rep. Lowenthal's office Shane.Trimmer@mail.house.gov ov. Lead NGO contact: Brian Langloss, Oceana, blangloss@oceana.org (Text, Summary, Section-by-Section, Group Support, FAQ).</p>	<p>The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act will provide badly-needed national leadership – reducing the amount of wasteful plastic and reforming our broken waste and recycling collection system. It will shift the burden of cleanup to where it belongs: on the corporations that produce this waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires big corporations to take responsibility for their pollution by requiring producers of plastic products to design, manage, and finance waste and recycling programs; • Spurs innovation, incentivizing big corporations to make reusable products and items that can actually be recycled; • Creates a nationwide beverage container refund program, modeled after the successful program pioneered in Oregon; • Reduces and ban certain single-use plastic products that are not recyclable; • Eliminates waste export loopholes by banning exports to countries who themselves re-export waste outside of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); • Requires the National Academy of Science to study and assess the direct and cumulative health, environmental, and economic impacts of plastic waste incinerators and other similar technology; • Establishes minimum recycled content requirements for beverage containers, packaging, and food-service products, while standardizing recycling and composting labeling; and • Generates massive investments in U.S. domestic recycling and composting infrastructure, while pressing pause on new plastic facilities until critical environment and health protections are put in place.

	<p>Sponsor Statements:</p> <p>“Many of us were taught the three R’s—reduce, reuse, and recycle—and figured that as long as we got our plastic items into those blue bins, we could keep our plastic use in check and protect our planet,” said Merkley, who serves as the Chair of the Environment and Public Works subcommittee overseeing environmental justice and chemical safety, which has jurisdiction over the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. “But the reality has become much more like the three B’s—plastic is buried, burned, or borne out to sea. The impacts on Americans’ health, particularly in communities of color and low-income communities, are serious. Plastic pollution is a full blown environmental and health crisis, and it’s time that we pass this legislation to get it under control.”</p> <p>“For decades we have treated our land, waterways, and oceans as dumping grounds for our plastic waste. Today, we are reaping what we have sown and now face a global plastic pollution crisis,” Congressman Lowenthal said. “We are on a precipice and we are running out of time to deal with this crisis of our own creation before it reaches a point of no return. As a major exporter of plastics waste, our nation has a responsibility and a duty to act now and act decisively. Our legislation applies one of the core principles of environmental law: ‘the polluter pays.’ It is time for multi-billion-dollar companies to step up and cover the costs of cleaning up the waste from their products. This legislation is a bold first step on the path to implementing lasting solutions.”</p> <p>MORE DETAIL:</p> <p>The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act will:</p> <p>Require Product Producers to Take Responsibility for Collecting and Recycling Waste:</p> <p>→ The bill requires producers of covered products (packaging, containers, food service products and paper) to design, manage, and finance programs to collect and process product waste that would normally burden state and local governments. The legislation will encourage producers to cooperate with those who produce similar products through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) to take responsibility for their waste and implement cleanup programs with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval.</p> <p>→ Producers will invest in U.S. domestic recycling and composting infrastructure, cover the costs of waste management and clean-up, and promote awareness-raising measures to reduce waste.</p>
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	<p>Create Nationwide Beverage Container Refunds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ The legislation will incentivize consumers to recycle by creating a 10-cent national refund program for all beverage containers, regardless of material, to be refunded to customers when they return containers.→ Any unclaimed refunds will go to beverage producers to supplement investments in nationwide collection and recycling infrastructure. This legislation encourages states that have already implemented similar initiatives to continue their current systems if they match the federal requirements. <p>Source Reduction and Phase-Out Top Polluting Products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Beginning in January 2022, some of the most common single-use plastic products that pollute our environment, cannot be recycled, and have readily-available alternatives will be source reduced and phased out from sale and distribution. The prohibitions will apply to lightweight plastic carryout bags, food and drinkware from expanded polystyrene, plastic stirrers and plastic utensils. Straws will only be available upon request. <p>Carryout Bag Fee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ The legislation would impose a fee on the distribution of carryout bags.→ The bill allows retailers who implement a reusable bag credit program to retain the fee to finance the program. Fees collected from retailers without a bag credit program will fund public access to reusable bags as well as litter clean up and recycling infrastructure. <p>Create a Minimum Recycled Content Requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ The bill requires plastic beverage containers to include an increasing percentage of recycled content in their products before entering the market. Informed by a feasibility study by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the EPA will also phase in new requirements for producers to manufacture containers from recycled content. The recycled content requirements will steadily increase over time. <p>Standardize Recycling and Composting:</p>
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	<p>→ The EPA will develop standardized recycling and composting labels for products and receptacles to encourage proper sorting and disposal of items that can be recycled or composted.</p> <p>Review Effects of Plastic Tobacco Filters, Electronic Cigarettes and Derelict Fishing Gear:</p> <p>→ Following studies on the environmental impacts of plastic tobacco filters, electronic cigarette parts and derelict fishing gear, the relevant agencies will propose measures to reduce those environmental impacts.</p> <p>Prevent Plastic Waste from Being Shipped to Developing Countries that Cannot Manage It:</p> <p>→ The United States has exported plastic waste, scrap, and pairings to developing countries with the claim that the material would be recycled. However, the majority of this material has instead fueled the global plastic pollution crisis by overburdening countries with already strained waste management systems.</p> <p>→ The bill prevents the export of plastic waste, scrap and pairings to countries that are not part of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), many of whom have been a major source of ocean plastic pollution due to their inability to manage the waste. The bill also requires that the United States receive consent from countries receiving the waste before it is exported.</p> <p>Protect Existing State Action:</p> <p>→ The bill protects the ability of state and local governments to enact more stringent standards, requirements, and additional product bans.</p> <p>Temporarily Pause New Plastic Facilities:</p> <p>→ The legislation gives environmental agencies the valuable time needed to investigate the cumulative impacts of new and expanded plastic-producing facilities on the air, water, climate, and communities before issuing new permits to increase plastic production. The legislation would also update EPA regulations to eliminate factory-produced plastic pollution in waterways and direct the EPA to update existing Clean Air and Clean Water Act emission and discharge standards to ensure that plastic producing facilities integrate the latest technology to prevent further pollution.</p>
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**3. PESTICIDES:
PROTECT AMERICA'S
CHILDREN FROM
TOXIC PESTICIDES
ACT of 2021 (PACTPA).**

Sen. Booker (D-NJ),
([Overview](#), [Text S3283](#),
[Sponsor Statement](#),
Section-by-Section, Group
Support). Co-Sponsors: S6,
House version not filed yet.

[Text Summary](#)

The Protect America’s Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2021 would:

Ban some of the most damaging pesticides:

- Organophosphate insecticides, which are designed to target the neurological system and have been linked to neurodevelopmental damage in children;
- Neonicotinoid insecticides, which have contributed to pollinator collapse around the world (the European Union and Canada have significantly restricted or banned their use to protect pollinators and other wildlife) and have recently been shown to cause developmental defects, heart deformations, and muscle tremors in unborn children;
- Paraquat, which is one of the most acutely toxic herbicides in the world, according to the EPA, just "one sip can kill." Science has shown that chronic exposure to paraquat increases risk of developing Parkinson's disease by 200% to 600%. It is already banned in 32 countries, including the European Union

Restore balance to protect ordinary citizens by:

- Creating a petition process to enable individual citizens to petition the EPA to identify dangerous pesticides so that the EPA would no longer be able to indefinitely allow dangerous pesticides to remain on the market;
- Closing dangerous loopholes that have allowed the EPA to issue emergency exemptions and conditional registrations to use pesticides before they have gone through full health and safety review by the agency;
- Enabling local communities to enact protective legislation and other policies without being vetoed or preempted by state law;
- Suspending the use of pesticides deemed unsafe by the E.U. or Canada until they are thoroughly reviewed by the EPA.

Provide protections for frontline communities that bear the burden of pesticide exposure by:

- Requiring employers of farmworkers to report all pesticide-caused injuries to the EPA, with strong penalties for failure to report injuries or retaliating against workers;
- Directing the EPA to review pesticide injury reports and work with the pesticide manufacturers to develop better labeling to prevent future injury;

	<p>- Requiring that all pesticide label instructions be written in Spanish and in any language spoken by more than 500 pesticide applicators.</p> <p>This bill is also sponsored by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), and Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.). In the House, the bill is sponsored by U.S. Representatives Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.), Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-Calif.), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.) and Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).</p>
FARMING & LAND	
<p>4. REGENERATIVE FARMING: AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) (Overview, Text S.1337/H.R. 2803, Sponsor Statement, Section-by-Section, Group Support). Votes: H22, No Senate Bill. Lead Sponsor Contacts: (TBA) . Lead NGO Contact, Jake Davis, Family Farm Action, jake@localrootstrategies.com.</p>	<p>Currently, agricultural activities contribute 8.4% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. To reach net-zero agricultural emissions within the next 20 years, the ARA focuses on six concrete policy areas and offers solutions rooted in science that are farmer-driven. These goals include:</p> <p>Increasing Research: The ARA would ensure existing agriculture research programs prioritize climate change research, increase funding for USDA's Regional Climate Hubs, support public breed and cultivar research, and create a new SARE Agricultural and Food System Resilience Initiative for farmer and rancher research and demonstration grants.</p> <p>Improving Soil Health: The ARA would create a new soil health grant program for state and tribal governments, authorize USDA to offer performance-based crop insurance discounts for practices that reduce risk, expand the National Agroforestry Center by authorizing three additional regional centers, and explore new ways to reward farmers such as future carbon markets or tax incentives for soil carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Protecting existing farmland: ARA would increase funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program, which Pingree championed in the 2018 Farm Bill, and create a new subprogram for farm viability and local climate resilience centers to help farmers reach new markets. The bill would also increase funding for the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program and amend the tax code to exclude from gross income the gain from the sale of 1) permanent conservation easements and 2) farm property to beginning, socially disadvantaged, veteran and young farmers.</p> <p>Supporting pasture-based livestock systems: The ARA would create a new alternative manure management program to support</p>

	<p>an array of livestock methane management strategies, a new grant program to help very small meat processors cover the costs associated with meeting federal inspection guidelines, and a Grasslands 30 pilot program within the Conservation Reserve Program to enroll grassland that is exiting CRP or at risk of conversion.</p> <p>Boosting investments in on-farm energy initiatives: The ARA would increase funding for the Rural Energy for America Program, direct USDA to study dual-use renewable energy and cropping or livestock systems, and move the AgSTAR program to NRCS to provide technical assistance to farmers interested in reducing methane emissions through anaerobic digestion.</p> <p>Reducing food waste: The ARA would standardize food date labels to reduce consumer confusion, create a new USDA program to reduce food waste in schools, and increase federal support for composting and anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.</p>
<p>5. FORESTS, WETLANDS, JOBS: THE CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-NJ), Rep. Abigail D. Spanberger (D-VA) (Overview, S.1072/H.R.2534, Sponsor Statement, Section-by-Section, Group Support 70+). Lead Sponsor</p> <p>Contacts: Adam Zipkin, Senator Booker's office, adam_zipkin@booker.senate.gov. Heide Todacheene, Rep. Haaland, heidi.todacheene@mail.house.gov. Lead NGO Contact, Jake Davis, Family Farm Action, jake@localrootstrategies.com.</p>	<p>The <i>Climate Stewardship Act</i> will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Plant over 16 billion trees by 2050, on a combination of federal, state, local, tribal, and non-governmental lands. The ambitious level of tree planting outlined in the Climate Stewardship Act makes it the biggest reforestation measure ever to be introduced in Congress.● Plant over 400 million of these trees in urban neighborhoods across America, with the priority going to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. In addition to sequestering carbon, trees also absorb harmful air pollutants and reduce temperatures in urban areas.● Support voluntary climate stewardship practices on over 100 million acres of farmland, reducing or offsetting agricultural emissions by one-third by 2025, through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Providing tens of billions of dollars of supplemental funding for USDA working lands conservation programs, with new funding dedicated to stewardship practices such as rotational grazing, improved fertilizer efficiency, and planting tens of millions of new acres of cover crops.○ Protecting millions of acres of environmentally sensitive farmland.○ Doubling funding for agricultural research programs, including more funding for soil health demonstration trials.○ Tripling USDA funding to provide farmers with expert technical assistance on climate stewardship practices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing grant funding to tens of thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural businesses for renewable energy production, such as solar panels and wind turbines, and energy efficiency improvements. ● Invest in local and regional food systems to increase resilience in rural and urban communities. ● Restore or protect over 2 million acres of coastal wetlands by 2030 to sequester carbon emissions and reduce coastal flooding. Coastal wetlands act as an important sponge during extreme weather events with heavy rainfall. For example, although New Jersey has lost more than 40 percent of its coastal wetlands, the wetlands remaining helped prevent \$625 million of property damage during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. ● Reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide youth from low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color with skills and work experience in forestry and wetlands restoration.
<p>6. ANTITRUST AGRICULTURE: THE FOOD & AGRIBUSINESS MERGER MORATORIUM ACT of 2019.</p> <p>Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) (Overview, Text S1596, HR2933, Sponsor Statement, Section-by-Section, Group Support). Votes: H17, S3. Lead Sponsor Contacts: Adam Zipkin, Senator Booker's office, adam_zipkin@booker.senate.gov. Sydney Scott, Rep. Pocan, sydney.scott@mail.house.gov. Lead NGO Contact, Jake</p>	<p>Official Summary: This bill places a moratorium on certain acquisitions between large agricultural and retail-related businesses and establishes the Food and Agriculture Concentration and Market Power Review Commission. The commission shall report to Congress and the President on (1) the nature and consequences of market concentration in the U.S. food and agricultural economy, and (2) recommended legal and regulatory changes to address such market concentration.</p> <p>Sponsor Statement (Press Release): U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) today announced the introduction of a bill that would put an 18-month moratorium on large agribusiness, food and beverage manufacturing, and grocery retail mergers and acquisitions. S.3404, The Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2018, is aimed at the unprecedented concentration in the agriculture and food sectors, which is squeezing small family farmers, driving down wages for workers, and hurting rural communities.</p> <p>In just the past two years, chemical and seed company acquisitions and mergers have allowed just three companies to control two-thirds of the crop seed and nearly 70 percent of the agriculture chemical markets. Meanwhile, net farm income for US farmers has fallen by more than half in just five years.</p>

<p>Davis, Family Farm Action, jake@localrootstrategies.com.</p>	
<p>7. CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS: FARM SYSTEMS REFORM ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Sen. Booker (D-NJ). Rep. Khanna (D-CA-17) (Overview, Text HR4421,S2332 Sponsor Statement, Section-by-Section, Group Support). Co-Sponsors: H27, S5. Lead Sponsor Contact, Adam Zipkin for Sen. Booker, adam_zipkin@booker.senate.gov. Kevin Fox for Rep. Khanna, kevin.fox@mail.house.gov. Lead NGO Contact, Jake Davis, Family Farm Action, jake@localrootstrategies.com.</p>	<p>The <i>Farm System Reform Act of 2021</i> would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place an immediate moratorium on new and expanding large CAFOs, and phase out by 2040 the largest CAFOs as <u>defined</u> by the Environmental Protection Agency • Hold corporate integrators responsible for pollution and other harm caused by CAFOs • Provide a voluntary buyout for farmers who want to transition out of operating a CAFO • Strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to protect family farmers and ranchers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prohibit the use of unfair tournament or ranking systems for paying contract growers ○ Protect livestock and poultry farmers from retaliation ○ Create market transparency and protect farmers and ranchers from predatory purchasing practices • Restore mandatory country-of-origin labeling requirements for beef and pork and expand to dairy products • Prohibit the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) from labeling foreign imported meat products as “Product of USA”
<p>8. FOREST ACT of 2021. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) (Overview, Text H1898/S2950, Sponsor Statement, Section by Section) Co-Sponsors H14 S8.</p>	<p>Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a risk-based framework for increasing transparency and reporting in companies’ international supply chains; • Provides financial and technical assistance that enable countries, companies, and the U.S. federal government to coordinate solutions to reduce illegal deforestation; • Incorporates deforestation in financial crime statutes so the Unites States can prosecute those who use the proceeds from deforestation to fund other criminal or terrorist enterprises; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a purchasing preference for the federal government for deforestation-free products.
FOSSIL FUEL MANAGEMENT	
<p>9. FRACKING: FUTURE GENERATIONS PROTECT ACT of 2021. H.R.6168 Rep. Jan Schackowsky (D-IL) (Overview, Text H6168, Sponsor Statement). Co-sponsors: H24. Lead NGO Contact, Jim Walsh, Food & Water Action, jwalsh@fwwatch.org.</p>	<p>This bill prohibits (1) the emission of any greenhouse gas in any quantity from a new electric utility steam generating unit (i.e., certain power plants); (2) hydraulic fracturing on all onshore and offshore land in the United States; and (3) exports of domestically produced crude oil and natural gas, with specified exceptions.</p> <p>The Secretary of Commerce may, with the approval of the President, approve the export of crude oil for—</p> <p>“(1) exchanges in similar quantity for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation with persons or the government of a foreign state;</p> <p>“(2) temporary exports for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation across parts of an adjacent foreign state which exports reenter the United States; and</p> <p>“(3) the historical trading relations of the United States with Canada and Mexico.”</p>
<p>10. FOSSIL FUEL TAX SUBSIDIES: END POLLUTER WELFARE ACT of 2021. Sen. Sanders, Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN). (Overview, S.1167/H.R.2102, Sponsor Statement, Section-by-Section, Group Support). Votes: H11, S (Not filed yet). Lead Sponsor Contacts: Katie Thomas, Sen.</p>	<p>IT IS TIME TO END FOSSIL FUEL WELFARE At a time when we have a record debt, Congress should not continue to give away taxpayer money to the established, highly profitable fossil fuel industry. Fossil fuels are subsidized at nearly 6 times the rate of renewable energy. From 2002 to 2008, the US Government gave the mature fossil fuel industry over \$72 billion in subsidies, while investments in the emerging renewable industry totaled \$12.2 billion.</p> <p>The fossil fuel energy industry does not need taxpayer subsidies. In 2011, the Big Five oil companies alone made \$137 billion in profits. During the first quarter of 2012, the Big Five oil companies earned a combined \$33.5 billion, or \$368 million per day.</p>

<p>Sander, Katie_Thomas@sanders.senate.gov, 8-6353; Maria Martirosyan, Rep. Omar, Maria.Martirosyan@mail.house.gov, 5-4755.</p>	<p>Unlike renewable energy incentives which periodically expire and require Congress to approve extensions, the fossil fuel industry has dozens of subsidies permanently engrained in the tax code from decades of successful lobbying. In 2011, the oil, gas, and coal industries spent a combined \$167 million on lobbying the federal government.</p> <p>STOP MORE THAN \$110 BILLION IN FOSSIL FUEL GIVEAWAYS OVER NEXT TEN YEARS The bill would comprehensively abolish fossil fuel subsidies, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. It ends tax breaks, eliminates special financing, does away with taxpayer funded fossil fuel R&D, and sets fair royalties policies to ensure the fossil fuel corporations pay their fair share.</p> <p>Examples of these giveaways include: OIL, GAS, and COAL TAX BREAKS \$14 Billion Saved by eliminating the intangible drilling deduction. \$12 Billion Saved by repealing a 2004 law that allows fossil fuel corporations to take deductions aimed at helping American manufacturers by claiming they are manufacturers. \$6.8 Billion Saved by closing the loophole that allows corporations like BP to deduct money they spend cleaning up their own oil spills and paying damages. SPECIAL FINANCING \$2.4 Billion Saved by stopping fossil fuel companies from investing through Master Limited Partnerships, an option not available to clean energy businesses. TAXPAYER FUNDED R&D \$3.7 Billion Saved by shutting the federal Office of Fossil Energy. ROYALTIES \$10.6 Billion Saved by recouping lost royalties for offshore drilling in public waters.</p>
RENEWABLE ENERGY	
<p>11. AMERICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT of 2021 (AREA).</p> <p>Rep. Welch (D-VT), (117th Congress: H.R.3959, Sponsor Statement) Co-Sponsors: H26</p>	<p>Establishes an ambitious renewable energy standard to require retail electricity suppliers to achieve at least 70% renewable electricity generation by 2030. This requirement begins at 20% in 2021 and gradually increases to 70% by 2030. The bill includes provisions to increase deployment of clean energy resources to every region of the country and ensure that investment and benefits are driven to communities most impacted by climate change.</p> <p>AREA prioritizes the use of solar, wind, and geothermal energy, and includes marine energy, limited forms of hydropower, and a limited allowance of methane digesters for smaller farms and wastewater plants.</p> <p>Retail electricity suppliers will be required to address existing pollution disparities through requirements to deploy an increasing share of their renewable generation in impacted communities. This will begin immediately in 2021 at 15% and increase after 5</p>

	<p>years to a 20% deployment requirement.</p> <p>Retail electricity suppliers will be required to meet an increasing share of their generation through distributed renewable energy generation, such as rooftop solar, starting with 15% in 2021 and increasing to a 20% deployment requirement after 5 years.</p> <p>AREA ensures that regulations result in a net decrease in emissions of criteria air pollutants, such as ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead, in impacted communities. This bill also seeks to ensure that all renewable energy deployment provides economic, health, and resiliency investments and benefits to the communities and areas where renewable generation is deployed.</p> <p>Investments in Impacted Communities and Community Ownership. In addition to renewable generation compliance in impacted communities, AREA requires at least 50% of funds collected from the bill's enforcement mechanism be invested in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and storage projects in impacted communities. AREA also prioritizes distributed, community, and public ownership of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Regional Credit Markets. There will be no fewer than 6 regional credit trading markets to track compliance and ensure the benefits of renewable expansion are spread throughout the country.</p> <p>Strong Enforcement. Retail electricity suppliers must meet their requirements by submitting renewable energy credits or paying an alternative compliance payment that begins at \$50/MWh and increases with inflation.</p>
ENVIRO JUSTICE & JUST TRANSITION	
<p>12. EJ & JT: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ), Sen. Duckworth (D-IL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amends and Strengthens the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Prohibits discrimination based on disparate impacts and overturns Alexander v. Sandoval.• Requires the Consideration of Cumulative Impacts Explicitly adds cumulative impacts in permitting decisions under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.• Codifies the Clinton Administration's Environmental Justice Executive Order Creates a working group to ensure compliance and enforcement and develop government-wide strategies.

<p>(117th Congress: S.872/H.R.2021) (Overview, Text, Sponsor Statement) Lead Sponsor Contact: (TBA). Lead NGO Contact: Anthony Rodgers-Wright, Climate Justice Alliance, anthonyrogerswright@gmail.com.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reinforces the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requires early and meaningful involvement in actions impacting communities, including Tribes.● Asserts Health Equity Funds programs to study potentially harmful products marketed towards women and girls of color.● Provides Outdoor Access for All Establishes programs to ensure more equitable access to parks and the outdoors.● Establishes Environmental Justice Grant Programs Funds grants for research, education, and projects to address environmental and public health issues.● Ensures a Fair and Just Transition Establishes a Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund to support communities and workers as they transition away from fossil fuel-dependent economies.
<p>13. JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS ACT of 2021.</p> <p>Rep. Adams (D-NC), Sen. Booker (D-NJ) (117th Congress: Text S.300/H.R.1393, Sponsor Statement)</p>	<p>This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide a variety of assistance to address historical discrimination and disparities in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>For example, the bill establishes an equity commission in USDA to examine discrimination by the agency against Black farmers and ranchers and recommend actions to end the systematic disparities in the treatment of Black farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>USDA must also establish a Farm Conservation Corps to provide young adults who are from socially disadvantaged groups with the skills necessary to pursue careers in farming and ranching.</p> <p>The bill provides funding for historically Black colleges and universities to commence and expand courses of study that are focused on careers in agriculture or related disciplines. The bill also increases the authorization of appropriations for a program to resolve issues relating to ownership and succession on farmland. Additionally, it expands credit assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Further, the bill (1) establishes that a minimum of 50% of a covered packer's (not including a packer that owns only one livestock processing plant) daily volume of livestock slaughter must be purchased through spot market sales from nonaffiliated producers; (2) increases funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program; and (3) gives priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and</p>

	ranchers for conservation technical assistance, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Rural Energy for America Program.
<p>14. PROHIBITING ANTICOMPETITIVE MERGERS ACT OF 2022 Sen. Elizabeth Warrn (D-MA) and Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY). (Bill Summary, Bill Text, Sponsor Statement)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Makes “prohibited mergers” illegal, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deals valued over \$5 billion Deals resulting in market shares above 33% for sellers or 25% for employers Deals resulting in highly concentrated markets under the 1992 agency guidelines Overhauls the merger-review process by giving antitrust agencies stronger tools to stop the most harmful mergers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing the agencies to reject mergers in the first instance without court orders Requiring the agencies to reject certain mergers, including prohibited mergers Prohibiting firms with a history of corporate crime or antitrust violations in the last ten years from acquiring other companies Prohibiting the agencies from negotiating remedies with the merging parties Directing the agencies to scrutinize the labor impacts of each deal and reject mergers harmful to workers Prohibiting private-equity “roll up” strategies that quickly consolidate industries Giving a greater role to other relevant agencies and state attorneys general Requiring courts to defer to certain agency determinations Stripping merger litigation from the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court Establishes procedures for the antitrust agencies to conduct retrospective reviews and break up harmful deals that have destroyed competition
OCEANS AND WATERWAYS	
<p>15. OCEAN-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2021 Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ). (Section by Section, Text H.R.3764, Sponsor Statement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects and restores “blue carbon” ecosystems Promotes offshore wind energy and research while prohibiting offshore fossil fuel activity Promotes climate-ready fisheries and eliminates fishing subsidies in trade agreements Enhances the fuel efficiency of our fishing vessel fleet Establishes a climate and fisheries research and management program Creates a restorative ocean aquaculture research and policy program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Updates the Coastal Barrier Resource Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act● Promotes climate resiliency of Insular Areas● Protects marine mammals through vessel speed programs● Addresses U.N. Sustainable Development Goal #14, to conserve and sustainably use the ocean● Expands climate mitigation efforts in the Arctic● Promotes coastal resiliency through living shorelines, coastal community adaptation, and more● Establishes a grant program for shovel-ready projects that promote resilient● coastlines and fisheries● Researches, forecasts, and mitigates ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms● Codifies Regional Ocean Partnerships, enhances ocean data collection and monitoring, and creates a centralized website for resiliency grants● Addresses greenhouse gas pollution from shipping vessels● Establishes a manufacturers fee on virgin single-use plastic production● Requires studies on deep sea mining, blue carbon, Great Lakes and ocean climate impacts, high seas fishing, public access to coasts, stressors on estuarine environments, black carbon, marine protected areas, and marine biodiversity
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