



FROM THE NEWSROOM OF:

HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies

[Bill Text](#) | [Committee Report](#)

The 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill includes \$25.4 billion, which is \$13.4 billion below the 2023 level, a cut of 35 percent. The legislation:

- **Hinders the U.S. response to the Climate Crisis** and fails to address the growing number and severity of extreme weather events by cutting efforts to reduce carbon emissions and community resiliency programs.
- **Slashes funding for national parks**, threatening Americans' ability to enjoy public lands.
- **Exacerbates environmental discrimination** against rural and poor communities by defunding environmental justice initiatives.
- **Promotes dirty energy** by requiring fossil fuels lease sales while prohibiting growth in clean energy projects.
- **Hastens ecosystem decline** by allowing harmful and dirty mining activities and by removing Endangered Species Act protections for numerous species.
- **Incites hate and discrimination** by prohibiting funds for advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, censoring commemoration of LGBTQI+ pride, and prohibiting the Smithsonian Institution from highlighting the contributions of American Latinos in U.S. history and culture.

The Republican bill cuts programs in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) by \$9.4 billion. These cuts include \$7.8 billion from the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund which supports investments for disadvantaged communities and the creation of high-paying jobs. Republicans cut \$1.4 billion intended to address environmental health impacts in underserved communities. They also slash hundreds of millions in additional funding for the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Key provisions of the bill include:

Department of the Interior (DOI) – The bill provides a total of \$14 billion for DOI, a decrease of \$697 million below 2023. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$1.2 billion for the **Bureau of Land Management**, \$255 million below 2023.
- \$1.5 billion for **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, \$237 million below 2023.
- \$3.0 billion for the **National Park Service**, \$436 million below 2023.
- \$1.3 billion for the **U.S. Geological Survey**, \$150 million below 2023.
- \$154 million for the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**, \$29 million below 2023.
- \$279 million for the **Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**, \$11 million below 2023.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill provides a total of \$6.2 billion for EPA – a decrease of \$4 billion below 2023. The lowest level the EPA has received since 1991. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$2.99 billion for EPA's core **science and environmental program work**, \$4.1 billion below 2023. Within these amounts, the bill includes:

- \$651.2 million for **Geographic Programs** which funds the restoration of nationally significant bodies of water like the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, and Long Island Sound. This is a decrease of \$30.5 million below 2023.
- \$2.58 billion for **State and Tribal Assistance Grants**, \$1.9 billion below 2023. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$995.6 million for **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds**, \$1.77 billion below 2023. This includes \$880.5 million in **Community Project Funding** for 767 clean water, drinking water, wastewater, and storm water management projects across the country leaving only \$115 million for other projects in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving funds.
 - \$1.51 billion for **Infrastructure Assistance Grants**, \$1.82 billion below 2023.
 - \$1.07 billion for **Categorical Grants**, \$87.6 million below 2023.
 - \$80 million for **Brownfields cleanups**, \$20 million below 2023.
 - \$105 million for **Diesel Emissions Reduction grants**.
- No funding for **Environmental Justice** activities, \$102 million below 2023.

Related Agencies –

- \$3.6 billion for the **Forest Service (non-fire)**, \$312 million below 2023.
- \$178 million for the **National Gallery of Art**, \$31 million below 2023.
- \$186 million each for the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, \$21 million below 2023.
- \$960 million for the **Smithsonian Institution**, \$185 million below 2023.
- \$12 million for the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, \$3 million below 2023.
- \$30 million for the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**, \$15 million below 2023.

The bill also includes 61 new policy riders in addition to legacy riders, many of which are partisan including:

Undercutting the Environmental Protection Agency

- Prohibits the consideration or incorporation of the social cost of carbon in any agency action.
- Prohibits EPA from approving waivers of the Clean Air Act for the State of California.
- Prohibits EPA from implementing the final rule titled “Federal ‘Good Neighbor Plan’ for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards”.
- Prohibits EPA from finalizing the proposed rule titled “Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category”.
- Prohibits EPA from taking action on certain pesticide labeling.
- Prevents Waters of the U.S. rule from having force of effect.

Promoting Dirty Energy

- Prohibits funds for wind energy activities in Idaho until a GAO report is completed.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to publish a 2024-2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Final Proposed Program and Record of Decision selecting the same number and description of sales described in the 2023–2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program.
- Prohibits pre-leasing, leasing, or the conveyance of leases for offshore wind energy activity in the Florida administrative boundary until certain conditions are met.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a minimum of two region-wide oil and gas lease sales in certain planning areas.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas leasing sales and specifies number of sales in listed states.

Damaging Public Lands and Natural Resources

- Prohibits funds to enforce Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to reinstate hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest in the State of Minnesota.
- Amends existing law regarding use of mining claims for ancillary activities.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to issue a new Record of Decision for Caldwell Canyon Mine project.
- Expands sage grouse listing prohibition to include additional distinct population.
- Prohibits funds to allow for bison introduction in Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.
- Cottonwood: requires DOI to issue a final rule from the Trump Administration regarding the ESA
- Prohibits DOI from implementing or enforcing rule that protects Lesser Prairie Chicken
- Prohibits funds for North Cascades Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Restoration Plan.
- Prohibits funds for implementing final rule listing Northern Long-eared bats.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife”.
- Prohibits funds to require transfer or relinquishment of water rights as permit condition.
- Exempts special recreation permits from certain cost recovery fees.
- Amends the Coastal Barriers Resources Act.
- Prohibits funds for management of Grand Staircases Escalante National Monument except in compliance with Record of Decision and February 2020 Resource Management Plan.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to reissue Order No. 3368.
- Prohibits regulating lead ammunition and tackle on federal lands or waters made available for hunting and fishing.
- Prohibits Glacier National Park reservation system.
- Prohibits Endangered Species Act protections for Dunes Sagebrush Lizard and grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- Prohibits funding for restoring and conserving wild and healthy American bison and prairie grassland ecosystem.
- Prohibits funds for the Bureau of Land Management “Conservation and Landscape Health” rule.

Promoting Intolerance

- Prohibits funds for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Latino and the operation of the Molina Family Latino Gallery.
- Prohibits funds for advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Prohibits DOI from providing counseling sessions for employees on certain topics.
- Creates a license to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty and prevents the federal government from adequately responding.