

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Senate Energy Package

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin,

On behalf of our millions of members and activists nationwide, we write to you with concerns about the pending Senate energy bill. Some of the legislation under consideration for possible inclusion in the package would double-down on destructive extraction practices, fossil fuel consumption and the promotion of other dirty energy sources.

Specifically, we call your attention to the following areas of concern and urge you to remove them from any underlying bill:

- **S.1317, the American Mineral Security Act**—This legislation would put our lands and resources at risk by expediting permitting for hard-rock minerals determined to be “critical.” Hardrock mineral extraction is an exceptionally destructive practice and under no circumstances should our bedrock environmental protections be circumvented to enable it.
- **S.903, The Nuclear Energy Leadership Act**—This legislation runs the risk of saddling taxpayers with uncompetitive electricity by allowing federal agencies to enter long-term contracts with existing and next-generation nuclear reactors.
- **S.2368, The Nuclear Energy Renewal Act**—This legislation aims to expand the lifespan of the U.S. nuclear fleet, ensuring the continued operation of aging and uneconomical nuclear reactors when we should be responsibly transitioning away from dangerous nuclear energy.
- **S.1201, The Enhancing Fossil Fuel Energy Carbon Technology (EFFECT) Act**—This legislation authorizes additional funding for the continuation of coal and natural gas use. At a time when we should be transitioning our economy away from carbon intensive energy sources, this bill enables continued dependence on dirty and harmful fossil fuels.

- **S.1685, Launching Energy Advancement and Development through Innovations for Natural Gas (LEADING) Act**—This legislation increases investments in carbon capture and sequestration (ccs) for natural gas emissions, providing yet another federal subsidy to the polluting fossil fuel industry.
- **S.816, Small-Scale LNG Access Act**—This legislation would expedite the approval of small-scale LNG facilities exporting less than 51.75 bcf annually by assuming them to be automatically in the public interest for the purposes of DOE review. This is an unacceptable bypassing of environmental review and a dangerous incentive for increased natural gas production.

With the climate crisis upon us, we cannot afford to rely solely on the promise of innovation. Instead, we urge you to support legislation and tax policy that encourages the deployment of wind, solar, storage and other proven renewable energy solutions.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Friends of the Earth
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Oil Change International
Sierra Club