

Chair Alan S. Lowenthal
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
Legislative Hearing: “*Expanding Clean Energy on Public Lands*”
May 24, 2021

H.R. 3326 Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2021 (Levin)

The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will come to order.
Good morning, or, depending on your time zone, good afternoon.

The Subcommittee is meeting today to hear testimony on efforts to expand clean energy on public lands and H.R. 3326, the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2021, introduced by Representative Levin.

Under Committee Rule 4(f), any oral opening statements at hearings are limited to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or their designees. This will allow us to hear from our witnesses sooner and help Members keep to their schedules.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that all other Members’ opening statements be made part of the hearing record if they are submitted to the Clerk by 5:00 pm today or the close of the hearing, whichever comes first; [*PAUSE*] hearing no objection, so ordered.

Without objection, the Chair may also declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

As described in the notice, statements, documents, or motions must be submitted to the electronic repository at HNRCdocs@mail.house.gov

Additionally, please note that, as with in-person meetings, Members are responsible for their own microphones. Members can be muted by staff only to avoid inadvertent background noise. Finally, Members or witnesses experiencing technical problems should inform committee staff immediately.

Our nation's public lands and waters are often ideal locations for wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects. And now, thanks to the leadership of Secretary Haaland and President Biden, it's a new day for clean energy on public lands.

Since coming into office, the Biden Administration has made it clear that addressing the climate crisis is imperative to preserving the safety and security of our nation. But it is also an opportunity to create good-paying, family-sustaining jobs, address historic inequities in our nation's energy infrastructure, and restore U.S. global leadership.

I wholeheartedly agree with this approach. It is a refreshing and welcome shift after the past four years.

H.R.3326 the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act will help achieve these shared goals in a way that is balanced, responsible, and respects input from local communities.

Building clean energy projects will also create jobs, especially in rural communities across the west. According to one recent estimate, wind and solar projects in rural communities in the United States are expected to support around 40,000 construction jobs and provide 2.3 billion dollars in annual wages by 2030.

These same projects will also create 38,000 jobs in long-term operations and maintenance, adding another 3.7 billion dollars in expected annual wages over the coming decade.

Today's hearing is an opportunity to hear from experts on how we can responsibly jumpstart wind, solar, and geothermal on public lands. We will also hear from the Bureau of Land Management on how they are using new authorities that became law at the end of last year thanks to bipartisan work by this subcommittee.

Turning to the subject of bipartisanship, I want to remind members that our witnesses have been generous with their time in preparing for today's hearing in accordance with the official hearing notice.

We should do our best to hear their testimony in a timely manner and give them an opportunity to respond to our questions.

The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act has a long history of bipartisanship in both the House and the Senate, and we have had several successful bipartisan hearings over the years on this subcommittee. I hope this tradition will continue today.

In closing, I fully support Mr. Levin's work on this bill. He has been clear from the start about how we can best work together to pass the bill through the House and get it signed into law. There is no denying the ongoing lack of trust and heightened partisanship following the events of January 6th. There was an attack on our democracy. But Representative Levin provided all members of this committee with a workable, bipartisan path forward to give PLREDA the best chance possible to become law.

I plan to cosponsor H.R. 3326 in the coming days, and would encourage all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to do the same.

I have some time remaining, which I would now like to yield to Representative Levin.