BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

2026

Federal Policy Playbook

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The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unifies labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force to fight climate change, protect the health of people and the environment, stand against economic and racial inequality, and create and maintain good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country. Our partnership is firm in its belief that Americans don't have to choose between a good job and a clean environment—we can and must have both.

When we invest in workers, modernize our industries, and rebuild the economy from the ground up, we can cut pollution and grow opportunities at the same time. If we are to successfully continue the work needed to fully address the climate crisis and create a more just, affordable economy, it is more important than ever that communities and workers across the country see tangible proof that policy can make their lives better.

This playbook is intended to guide federal policymakers in the development of legislation to build a worker and community-centered clean economy. It first lays out high-road recommendations that should be applied across legislation, then lays out specific policy recommendations for seven areas:

- **Growing and Sustaining Clean Energy and Clean Economy Union Jobs**
- **Transforming Manufacturing and Getting Industrial Policy Right**
- **Achieving Fairness for Workers and Communities**
- **Building Infrastructure and Community Resilience**
- **Tackling Methane and Managing Carbon**
- **Addressing Racial and Economic Inequity and Creating Healthy and Safe Communities**
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Building on the Foundation of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

During the 117th Congress, the United States saw significant progress toward the creation of a pro-worker clean economy through the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act. Many—though not all—of the provisions in these laws were tied to labor standards to incentivize the creation of good, family-sustaining jobs. Each of these laws addressed critical sectors of the U.S. economy.

To some degree, the Inflation Reduction Act and BIL included requirements for labor standards. The Inflation Reduction Act included labor standards on some tax credits, and likewise, labor standards in BIL only applied to some programs. There are concerns that emerging clean energy sectors are entrenching lower levels of unionization, wages, and benefits, rather than taking advantage of the opportunity to build a new generation of good energy sector jobs.[1] Labor standards for construction in BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act were countering that trend—union representation across the energy sector was increasing under the laws and union jobs accounted for one of every three net new jobs across the energy sector in 2024.[2]

Unfortunately, Congress did not enact comparable labor standards for manufacturing and electric vehicle tax credits. With no such labor standards created by the Inflation Reduction Act for manufacturing, industrial unions were working hard to win union representation at many facilities within the clean energy and advanced manufacturing sectors. In many cases, this has been an uphill battle, especially in states that have adopted so-called “Right-to-Work” laws.

Then in July 2025, Congressional Republicans took a sledgehammer to that progress with the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA). The law weakened the Inflation Reduction Act by rescinding unobligated grant and loan funding and rolling back clean energy incentives. The consequences are already clear: job losses, higher emissions, rising energy costs, and clean energy innovation moving overseas. At the same time, the Trump administration has cancelled or delayed hundreds of approved projects, paused or blocked Congressionally appropriated funding, and starved the very agencies responsible for delivering a pro-worker clean economy.[3]

Despite this damage, the foundation created by BIL and Inflation Reduction Act is not gone. While the scale of investments were dramatically reduced, some key tax credits, bonuses, and grant programs remain intact. It's important that we leverage these tools alongside strong regulations and manufacturing labor standards to support job creation, lower household energy costs, and strengthen domestic manufacturing.

BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act remain a foundation for future policy, and the progress they set in motion can still be built upon. These laws show that when we invest in workers, modernize American industry, and rebuild the economy from the ground up, we can cut pollution, grow union jobs, and expand opportunity at the same time. To fully address the climate crisis and deliver a more just and affordable economy, communities and workers must see tangible proof that government action improves their lives.

High-Road Recommendations to Maximize Benefits to Workers and Communities

These overarching recommendations establish the core principles that should accompany federal investments to ensure they deliver broad, lasting benefits for workers and communities. Together, they emphasize fair pay, strong labor protections, high-quality training and career pathways, domestic manufacturing, and meaningful enforcement and accountability. By utilizing these recommendations, Congress can demonstrate a clear commitment to creating good-paying union jobs for a diverse workforce while ensuring that federal investments produce tangible community benefits.

- **Ensure workers' rights are protected in accordance with federal labor law**, including the rights guaranteed under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to organize and bargain collectively, and support the use of collective bargaining agreements that secure wages, benefits, and workplace health and safety standards.
- **Apply Davis-Bacon prevailing wage and registered apprenticeship provisions** to ensure fair pay and build a skilled workforce through paid, on-the-job training.
- **Include robust and enforceable labor standards for manufacturing workers**;
- **Utilize project labor agreements (PLAs), community benefit agreements, local hire, targeted hire benchmarks**, and other provisions and practices that prioritize improving training, working conditions, and project benefits;
- **Expand and modernize workforce training pathways**, including registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, postsecondary programs, and union-affiliated training that strengthens technical skills and occupational safety;
- **Support K-12 career pathways**, including through career and technical education (CTE), youth apprenticeships, work-based learning, and dual-enrollment that strengthens hands on skills building and stackable credentials,
- **Ensure all labor standards attached to federal funding, tax incentives, and procurement are backed by strong enforcement, compliance monitoring, clear reporting requirements, and meaningful penalties for violations**.
- **Enforce all existing Buy America and Buy American requirements**: The full suite of Buy America laws must be maintained and enforced to ensure taxpayer funded infrastructure projects grow domestic manufacturing, build more stable supply chains, and support good-paying American jobs.

- **Utilize targeted hiring, responsible contracting, and workforce participation provisions** that deliver direct economic benefits to low-income communities, people of color, and women.
- **Codify agency requirements that condition public funding on the creation of high-quality jobs and the use of community benefit agreements**, recognizing unions and community partners as essential partners in workforce development, community engagement, and successful project delivery.

The policy recommendations that follow fall into two categories: "**relevant legislation**" and "**legislative requests**." Relevant legislation refers to bills that already exist and have been introduced. **Inclusion of a bill in this playbook does not imply endorsement by BGA or our partners**, unless specifically noted in **bold green text** with asterisks (***), which indicates the BGA has endorsed the bill. The bills are highlighted to illustrate promising legislative approaches to identified challenges.

Legislative requests, by contrast, are ideas for bills that do not yet exist. We invite members of Congress to work with the BlueGreen Alliance to develop these concepts.

Growing and Sustaining Clean Energy and Clean Economy Union Jobs

Deploying clean energy at scale is critical to cutting emissions driving climate change and toxic air pollution while meeting rising power demand and modernizing an aging energy system. Strategic investments in domestic, clean energy—paired with the construction of new clean and resilient infrastructure at scale and speed and in compliance with core environmental laws—strengthen energy security, create and sustain high-quality union jobs, improve public health, and deliver more reliable, affordable energy for working families and communities.

DEPLOYING CLEAN ENERGY

Deploying clean energy at scale is critical to cutting emissions while meeting rising power demand and modernizing an aging energy system. Strategic investments in domestic, clean energy strengthen energy security, create and sustain high-quality union jobs, improve public health, and deliver more reliable, affordable energy for working families and communities.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Restore Inflation Reduction Act tax credits (with all bonuses) that were terminated or modified by the OBBBA**, including the 48E Clean Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC), the 45Y Clean Energy Production Tax Credit (PTC), and wind component eligibility under the 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit.
2. **Develop legislation that strengthens federal siting authority for interstate electricity transmission**, designates the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead agency for transmission planning and permitting, and establishes clear, equitable cost allocation frameworks.
3. **Allocate funding incentives to deploy grid enhancing technologies (GETs), advanced transmission technologies (ATTs), and other technologies** that can optimize electric transmission buildout and decrease costs to ratepayers.
4. **Incentivize clean energy development and avoid siting disputes by encouraging clean energy project developers—through cleanup funding, technical assistance, and prioritization in the permitting process—to utilize unused, disturbed, or contaminated lands**, such as brownfields, retired mines, and closed landfills, without displacing or deterring the prospects of reindustrialization.

5. **Prioritize and provide support such as targeted funding for utilizing existing electric transmission lines, towers, and substation equipment**, reducing the need for costly new infrastructure in the interconnection process.
6. **Create a national transmission authority to plan, finance, construct, own, and operate interregional electric transmission lines** that can connect a national grid and facilitate the rapid addition of new clean power to the grid.
7. **Support legislation that promotes the research, testing, development, and deployment of next-generation geothermal energy.** The bill should include workforce development programs that encourage participation from members of unions and energy communities, while supporting the growth of a skilled energy workforce and the deployment of an innovative and growing source of clean energy.
8. **Advance legislation that contains proactive and timely permitting and siting solutions that enable us to build new clean and resilient infrastructure** at scale and speed without weakening core environmental laws and public participation.[4]

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. ***S. 3226, the Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act proposes supporting the development of the offshore wind workforce through authorizing new grants for workforce training partnerships. It can help ensure a skilled domestic workforce is ready to meet offshore wind demand while creating high-quality, local jobs (Markey – 118th).
2. **S. 5551, the BIG WIRES Act (Building Integrated Grids With Inter-Regional Energy Supply Act)** is designed to modernize the U.S. electrical grid by significantly increasing the power transfer capacity between different geographic regions (Hickenlooper – 118th).
3. **H.R. 3742, the Offshore Energy Modernization Act of 2025** would support the development of offshore wind farms through Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) updates, permitting reform, workforce development, transmission expansion, and investments in shipbuilding. The legislation is significant because it modernizes outdated offshore energy statutes, reducing permitting bottlenecks and strengthening domestic supply chains needed to deploy offshore wind at scale (Tonko – 119th).

4. **S. 1541, the SHIPS for America Act** supports the construction of more Jones Act-compliant ships, closing a critical shortage for the offshore wind industry, by providing an Investment Tax Credit for the construction of ports, shipyards, and vessels. Vessel shortages are a major constraint on offshore wind deployment, and expanding U.S. shipbuilding capacity enhances competitiveness (Kelly – 119th).
5. **S.4116, the GeoPOWER Act** enables the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to move beyond limited-scale pilots and unlock the large-scale geothermal electricity generation needed to transition geothermal from demonstration to deployment at a nationally meaningful scale. It authorizes DOE to offer innovative financing approaches to help scale next-generation geothermal power generation and develop markets in states with limited existing geothermal facilities. (Hickenlooper – 119th).

WORKERS' RIGHTS AND CLEAN ECONOMY UNION JOBS

A fair, high-road clean economy depends on strong worker protections, the right to collectively bargain, and the creation of high-quality union jobs. Upholding workers' rights ensures that investments in clean energy and manufacturing deliver safe working conditions and pathways into good-paying union jobs. Congress should strengthen and protect all workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively and establish strong penalties for employer intimidation and labor rights violations. Public investments should also be tied to high-road job quality and community benefit standards that promote stakeholder engagement, accountability, and measurable outcomes throughout the construction, operations, and maintenance phases of publicly supported projects.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

1. **Develop a legislative framework to support the attachment of robust and enforceable labor standards for manufacturing, operations and maintenance workers** to legislation that provides direct or indirect subsidies or financial assistance to American manufacturers.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. ***S. 852/H.R. 20, the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2025 would strengthen workers' collective bargaining rights. It seeks to amend existing labor laws to make it easier for employees to form unions, penalize employers who violate workers' rights, ban "right-to-work" laws, and restrict the misclassification of employees as independent contractors (Sanders/Scott – 119th).
2. *** S. 1352/H.R. 2736, the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2025 establishes federal minimum standards for collective bargaining rights for public service employees, ensuring they can organize, join unions, and negotiate workplace conditions nationwide (Hirono/Norcross – 119th).
3. ***S. 844/H.R. 5408, the Faster Labor Contracts Act is designed to speed up the negotiation process for initial collective bargaining agreements between newly certified unions and employers. It amends the NLRA by replacing the current open-ended timeframe with strict, mandatory deadlines and binding arbitration (Hawley/Norcross – 119th).
4. ***S. TBD/H.R. TBD, the Good Energy Jobs Act would codify labor and community benefit requirements based on the Biden-era DOE Community Benefits Plan process, mandating that DOE financial assistance supports high-quality jobs, broad community benefits, domestic manufacturing, and the Justice40 initiative (Heinrich & Tonko/Budzinski – 119th).

5. *****H.R. 5761, The Fair Warning Act** would overhaul and strengthen the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, increasing mandatory advance layoff notice from 60 to 90 days, lower threshold requirements for covered businesses, and explicitly account for remote workers (Sykes – 119th).
6. *****S. 2837/H.R. 2550, the Protect America's Workforce Act** is legislation designed to restore and safeguard the collective bargaining rights of over one million federal employees, nullifying executive orders, and ensuring that federal workers can participate in unions and that any collective bargaining agreements remain in place (Warner/Golden – 119th).
7. **H.R. 8758, the Public Service Worker Protection Act** would expand the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 to include public employees such as federal, state, and local government workers (DeLuzio – 118th).
8. **H.R. 6597, the Labor Enforcement to Securely Protect Workers Act (LET'S Protect Workers Act)** is federal labor legislation designed to increase civil monetary penalties for dishonest employers who violate core workers' rights and labor standards (Scott – 119th).
9. **S. 1827/H.R. 3473, the Build Local, Hire Local Act** would establish local hire authority and strengthens labor/Buy America standards in federally assisted projects, ensuring that federal infrastructure investment prioritizes American workers and manufacturers, and puts low-income communities first (Gillibrand/Bass – 117th).
10. **S. 1286/H.R. 2671, the Tax Fairness for Workers Act** would restore deduction for union dues and unreimbursed employee expenses (Smith/Boyle – 119th).
11. **S. 2312/H.R. 4439, the Unemployment Insurance Modernization and Recession Readiness Act** would modernize unemployment insurance by requiring stronger state benefits standards, automatically extending benefits during economic downturns, expanding coverage to more workers (including the self-employed), and increasing federal support for unemployed workers and their dependents (Wyden & Bennet/Byer – 119th).
12. **S. 1310/H.R. 2692, the No Tax Breaks for Union Busting (NTBUB) Act**, ends the federal tax deduction for expenses employers incur to influence workers' decisions about union organizing or collective action, ensuring taxpayers do not subsidize anti-union campaigns. The bill also establishes reporting requirements and penalties related to those expenditures (Lujan/Norcross – 119th).

Transforming Manufacturing and Getting Industrial Policy Right

Transforming energy-intensive industry to produce essential materials with far lower emissions and manufacturing the clean energy technologies of the future here in America can boost innovation, productivity and competitiveness and ensure that energy transition doesn't drive jobs or pollution overseas. Done right, industrial transformation can build robust and resilient supply chains and help roll back economic inequality and reverse the slide in wages, benefits, and workers' rights that has undermined workers and their communities for decades.[5]

SECURE SUPPLY CHAINS AND CLEAN MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP

Building secure, domestic supply chains is essential to reduce pollution, improve reliability, and ensure the clean economy is built in the United States. Investing in clean manufacturing leadership strengthens economic resilience, supports good union jobs, and positions U.S. workers and manufacturers to compete and lead in global clean energy markets.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Advance legislation that assists heavy industry in decarbonizing throughout the United States.** Congress should focus on de-risking capital-intensive, first-of-a-kind deployments of low-emission pathways and deploy broadly available technologies through tools like loan guarantees, flexible authorities for market-shaping, procurement commitments, investment and/or production tax credits, and appropriating additional funding to the Industrial Demonstrations Program and the 48C Advanced Energy Project Tax Credit that help overcome financing barriers and accelerate commercialization.
2. **Expand the Manufacturing USA network**—a national network of federally supported innovation institutes that bring together industry, government, and academia to accelerate advanced manufacturing in the United States—specifically to cover additional advanced technology areas where global leadership is still contested, like biomanufacturing, and critical minerals. Expansion should include:
   a. Closer integration with workforce and labor partnerships, including apprenticeship pipelines and regional training programs.
   b. Linkages with federal procurement needs so institute innovations have clear commercialization pathways.
   c. Stronger financing models that incentivize state governments, corporations, and philanthropy to provide matching funds.

3. **Establish regional high-road advanced industrial zones that integrate manufacturing incentives, infrastructure, and clean power with industrial facilities producing steel, cement, chemicals, energy technologies, and other core materials** with due attention to ensuring that all regions and workers have an equal opportunity to participate and that no regions or workers are left behind. By co-locating clean energy supply with industrial demand, these hubs would accelerate decarbonization, reduce costs, and foster globally competitive U.S. industrial clusters.
4. **Forecast large loads more effectively by requiring FERC to ensure utilities improve long-term load forecasting and distinguish between different types of new demand**—especially separating energy-intensive data centers from manufacturers, which are less able to absorb rising energy costs.
5. **Pursue a stable and reliable supply of critical minerals and materials to strengthen domestic manufacturing of clean technologies.** Invest in reuse, refurbishment, and recycling, while ensuring strong labor and environmental safeguards throughout the critical minerals supply chain.
6. **Invest in grid components manufacturing and deployment by providing dedicated funding streams for domestic production of transformers, switchgear, and other critical grid components**, paired with incentives for advanced grid technologies such as digital substations and high-voltage direct current (HVDC). These investments not only enhance U.S. grid resilience but also lower energy costs—a critical enabler for competitive domestic manufacturing.
7. The CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS) authorized roughly $280 billion to revitalize domestic semiconductor manufacturing and strengthen U.S. science and technology development, including $52.7 billion in direct appropriations for semiconductor incentives, R&D, and workforce training. It also authorized—but did not appropriate—$174 billion for the U.S. National Science Foundation, DOE Office of Science, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including $829 million to expand the Manufacturing USA program and provisions directing geographic diversification of institutes, broader participation by minority- and rural-serving institutions, and federal policies promoting domestic production of technologies developed within the network. **Congress should appropriate the funding from CHIPS that was authorized but never received.**

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. ***H.R. 9334, the Steel Modernization Act strengthens domestic manufacturing, bringing next generation iron and steel back to the United States, and revitalizes deindustrialized regions (Khanna – 118th).

2. *****S. 4781, the Make More in America Act** expands the Export-Import Bank's authorities and investment capacity to support domestic manufacturing and supply chains in strategic industries through direct financing, loan guarantees, equity-like investments, and interagency coordination tools. The bill targets sectors critical to economic and national security, including semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, quantum technology, biotechnology, energy technologies, robotics, and shipbuilding, while incorporating labor standards and domestic production requirements (Schumer – 119th).
3. **S. 1067, the Concrete and Asphalt Innovation Act** would strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production in the United States through the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of technologies to reduce emissions from cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production, and for other purposes (Coons & Tillis – 119th).
4. **S. 448, the Credit Incentives for Resilient Critical Utility Infrastructure and Transformers Act** (CIRCUIT Act) amends the Internal Revenue Code to expand the advanced manufacturing production tax credit under Section 45X to include the production of distribution transformers (Moran – 119th).
5. **H.R. 3638, The Electric Supply Chain Act**, directs the DOE to conduct periodic assessments of the supply chain for electricity generation and transmission, identifying risks, foreign-dependencies, workforce challenges, and recommending steps to strengthen domestic capacity (Latta – 119th).
6. **H.R. 4350, the Unearth America's Future Act** supports responsible domestic mineral production, fosters public-private partnerships, and invests in next-generation innovation – all while keeping jobs in the U.S. and less on foreign entities (Stevens – 119th).
7. **H.R. 3200, the Critical Minerals & Manufacturing Support Act**, amends the internal revenue code to boost the advanced manufacturing production tax credit (section 45x) for battery-component production (raising it from 10% to 25%) and impose sourcing and assembly requirements for critical minerals and battery components to qualify (Ruiz – 119th).
8. **S. 646/H.R. 9851, the Hydrogen for Industry Act** would direct DOE to create grant programs that demonstrate and deploy hydrogen technologies in heavy industries—such as steel, cement, glass, and chemical manufacturing—by supporting both new hydrogen-powered facilities and the retrofitting of existing ones to use hydrogen as a fuel or feedstock, while also incorporating emissions-reduction goals and, in the House version, explicit consideration for disadvantaged communities (Coons/Sorenson – 118th).

CLEAN VEHICLES

Expanding clean vehicle manufacturing is critical to cutting harmful transportation pollution while securing the future of the U.S. auto industry and its supply chains. Investing in American-made clean vehicles and critical inputs like batteries strengthens domestic industry and delivers cleaner air for communities nationwide. It can also create high-quality union jobs with the right labor standards attached.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Establish a proactive, worker centered legislative framework for autonomous vehicles (AVs)** that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) agencies are empowered and resourced to enforce. Specifically, establish conditions on the operation and deployment of AVs, preserve state and local authority to enact protections, and ensure job retention and workforce development requirements.
2. **Establish policies that ensure the United States is a leader in light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EV and EV component manufacturing**, including strong point-of-sale consumer demand incentives for new and used EVs that grow the market and help manufacturers scale domestic production. Incentives should preference vehicles assembled at facilities with a collective bargaining agreement.
3. **Establish incentives for charging infrastructure that ensures availability for all communities**, with a priority on filling gaps in underserved communities, though a reinstated or reconceived 30C Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit.
4. **Expand EV manufacturing and advanced clean vehicle technology funding through the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program**, requiring that recipient companies abide by strong labor standards and prioritizing those that retain high-quality jobs.
5. **Establish a federal program for transit operations funding to improve and expand transit operations, invest in domestically manufactured and assembled zero-emission transit vehicles and invest in modernization of our national transportation infrastructure** to ensure infrastructure investments create good jobs, build a cleaner economy, and better serve our communities.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. **S. 4429/H.R. 8730, the Connected Vehicle Security Act of 2026** prohibits the importation, manufacture and sale of connected vehicles and connected vehicle components from China, North Korea, Russia or Iran (Moreno & Slotkin/Moolenaar & Dingell – 119th).
2. **S. 1099, the Vehicle Innovation Act of 2026** would authorize the DOE through FY 2028 to boost research, development, and commercialization of advanced vehicle technologies that increase fuel efficiency, strengthen supply chains, and support American auto manufacturers and suppliers (Dingell & Stevens – 119th).

TRADE

Trade policy must protect workers' rights and uphold strong labor and environmental standards to prevent a race to the bottom that harms communities and the climate. A fair, enforceable trade framework supports good union jobs, reduces pollution, and ensures U.S. workers and manufacturers can compete on a level playing field.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **As a complement to fully enforcing our domestic laws, level the regulatory and environmental playing field between domestic and foreign producers by implementing a tariff on the criteria pollutants released at foreign factories that are above U.S. regulatory standards**. Implementing a tariff on pollution that exceeds allowable levels of domestic producers of the same good can prevent the simple transfer of pollution to nations with lax environmental standards and also incentivize our trading partners to reduce harmful emissions, all while protecting domestic producers from being undercut by dirty imports.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. *****H.R. 7805, the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Modernization Act** reauthorizes and improves the TAA program that provides displaced U.S. workers with critical support, including job training, income support, health care assistance and reemployment services (Sanchez – 119th).
2. *****H. Res. 1286, Fair Trade for Working Families Agenda**. This resolution sets a topline trade policy agenda that supports workers, consumers, independent farmers, small businesses, and the environment (DeLauro – 119th).

3. **S. 691, the Level the Playing Field 2.0 Act** would amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to strengthen and modernize the administration of anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws to better protect U.S. industries from unfair foreign competition, unfair loss market share, and market manipulation (Young & Smith – 119th).
4. **S. 429, the Strategic Minerals Act** would empower the president to negotiate and enforce sector-specific free-trade agreements exclusively focused on critical minerals and REEs with trusted partners and allies, thereby bolstering cooperation, reducing trade barriers, and enhancing economic security (Coons & Young – 119th).
5. **S. 3422, the Clean Competition Act** would impose a carbon border adjustment on energy intensive imports, while incentivizing decarbonization of domestic manufacturing. In the first phase, the adjustment would apply to energy intensive industries, including fossil fuels, refined petroleum products, petrochemicals, fertilizer, hydrogen, adipic acid, cement, iron and steel, aluminum, glass, pulp and paper, and ethanol. In the second phase, it would be expanded to include imported finished goods that meet certain weight or value thresholds. It would apply to domestic products as well as imported ones (Whitehouse – 118th).
6. **S. 1325, the Foreign Pollution Fee Act of 2025** would amend the internal revenue code to impose a fee on certain imported goods based on the pollution intensity of their production (Cassidy – 119th).
7. **S. 409/H.R. 995, the No Tax Breaks for Outsourcing Act (NTBOA)** eliminates tax incentives that encourage multinational corporations to shift profits, investment, and jobs overseas by requiring more equal tax treatment of foreign and domestic income. The legislation aims to promote domestic investment, strengthen U.S. competitiveness, and curb shifting profits offshore (Whitehouse/Doggett – 119th).

Achieving Fairness for Workers and Communities

Energy workers and communities have disproportionately borne the economic pain of the transition to clean energy, while not fully sharing the economic gain. Reclamation and remediation efforts are critical to restoring healthier environments, creating good jobs, and laying the foundation for future economic development. We can't leave workers or communities behind as we make fundamental changes in our energy economy, which are also necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This includes advancing policies that support place-based economic revitalization and accessible pathways to good-paying, union jobs. A real transition for workers means access to new skills, new opportunities, and high-road jobs with strong wages and benefits. It also means investing in affected communities by replacing lost tax revenue, supporting public services, and creating long-term economic opportunities.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Establish a coordinated, all-of-government approach to achieve fairness for workers and communities** by creating a permanent office modeled after the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities to ensure effective and durable economic development in energy communities.
2. **Increase appropriated funding for the Dislocated Worker Program under WIOA to address insufficient existing funding levels for workers affected by plant or mine closures and expand capacity at the Department of Labor to support dislocated energy workers.**
3. **Develop an updated dislocated energy worker bill to provide transition assistance for dislocated energy workers**, including a bridge of wage support, healthcare, training, job placement assistance, and expanded Department of Labor capacity, research, and related supports that help workers transition to new, good paying jobs. This could be modeled, in part, on California's Displaced Oil and Gas Workers Fund.
4. **Sustain progress on legacy pollution remediation by preventing a funding cliff and ensuring states can continue tackling the massive backlog of orphaned wells and abandoned mine lands (AML) that threaten drinking water, leak greenhouse gases, and require long-term reclamation to revitalize rural economies**. Additional workforce development is also needed for plugging and remediation. While the 2021 BIL provided a critical down payment of roughly $16 billion, recent 2026 data show this investment covers less than 10% of the estimated national cleanup liability, and fully addressing this legacy pollution would require an additional $280 billion to $300

billion beyond BIL to meet the true scale of the challenge and deliver lasting environmental and economic benefits.

5. **Defend economic development agencies and programs that directly support economic revitalization in energy communities across the country**. The Trump administration has repeatedly submitted budget requests asking Congress to cut funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission by as much as 93% and to completely eliminate the Economic Development Administration. There are two programs within these agencies that explicitly support energy communities and must be defended. The Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER Initiative provides grants to "expand economic opportunities for coal communities" and the Economic Development Administration's Assistance to Coal Communities program provides funding "to support communities and regions that have been negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy."

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. *****H.R. 9557, the American Energy Worker Opportunity Act** recognizes that, as the world shifts away from fossil fuels, workers are often left behind. Federal support is necessary to treat them fairly. The bill would provide a bridge of wage support, health insurance coverage, and opportunities for new jobs for those who work in coal fired power plants, coal mines, and oil refineries. We previously endorsed this legislation (Casar – 118th).
2. *****H.R. 6756, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act** would ensure that coal miners with black lung disease receive the treatment and support they have been promised. Miners are eligible for certain benefits to be paid by the coal company they worked for, but coal companies have found ways to avoid and delay paying benefits to miners and their families (McGarvey – 119th).
3. **S.818, the Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act** would establish a DOE program focused on identifying, plugging, and repurposing abandoned oil and gas wells. The act focuses on developing new technology to reduce methane emissions, protect groundwater, and improve plugging efficiency for orphaned wells, often addressing hard-to-reach or uncharted sites (Lujan & Cramer – 119th).

Building Infrastructure and Community Resilience

Repairing and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure is a significant opportunity to create safe, high-quality union jobs and build resilient, healthy communities while reducing pollution and emissions, fighting climate change, and enabling communities to be better prepared for extreme weather events. Done right, infrastructure investments can correct historic underinvestment, improve public health outcomes, and ensure communities most affected by pollution and climate impacts share in the benefits. These investments should also help address growing climate-related risks to workplaces and community assets, protecting worker health and safety, reducing operational disruptions, and strengthening local economic resilience in the face of extreme heat, flooding, wildfires, and other climate hazards. By improving resilience across workplaces and critical facilities, they can help preserve good jobs, maintain productive capacity, and reduce the risk that climate-related disruptions contribute to facility closures, economic dislocation, or the loss of key employers that anchor local communities.

BUILDINGS

Energy efficient, healthy, and climate-resilient buildings are essential to reducing pollution while protecting communities and lowering costs. They must also help meet the urgent need for housing that working people can afford. Designing buildings with equity and high road labor standards—and using healthy, low carbon construction materials made in the United States—strengthens domestic manufacturing, creates good union jobs, and delivers safer, more sustainable places to live and work.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Invest in affordable housing and enact a public building infrastructure package** that supports high-road union jobs while ensuring that workers and communities benefit.
2. **Incorporate energy efficiency into the existing 48E investment tax credit** to incentivize energy efficiency for public buildings.
3. **Create a federal Housing Production Tax Credit conditioned on prevailing wage, apprenticeship, local hire, and domestic content.**
4. **Develop legislation that supports the colocation of housing near major employment sites** (e.g. manufacturing hubs, energy facilities) including opportunities to utilize waste heat to serve adjacent homes.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. *****H.R. 7340, the Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2026** proposes $130 billion in federal grants and bonds to support to repair, rebuild, and modernize the physical and digital infrastructure of the nation's school facilities and grounds (Scott - 119th).
2. *****H.R. 1485, the Open Back Better Act of 2021** proposes infrastructure funding focused on resilience and energy efficiency for municipalities, universities, schools, and hospitals. This bill was initiated and endorsed by BGA. In the context of the pandemic, this bill was introduced to help public facilities retrofit to be ready to reopen to the public with improved indoor air quality (Blunt Rochester -117th).
3. **H.R. 5784, the Green New Deal for Schools Act of 2023** includes funding for school infrastructure grants with attached labor standards (Jayapal – 119th).
4. **H.R. 6281, the CHARGE Act of 2025** will provide DOE clean energy grants for solar and battery storage for federal healthcare facilities (Smith – 119th).
5. **HR 9662, the Homes Act of 2024** establishes a national housing authority under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop permanent affordable housing stock as an alternative to market-rate housing. Includes labor standards including PLAs for $25M+, registered apprenticeships and prevailing wages along with Buy America provisions (Ocasio Cortez – 118th).
6. **H.R. 1355, the Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act** reauthorizes and modernizes the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through 2030, raising the per-home spending cap from $6,500 to $12,000 to cover rising equipment and labor costs. It will also create a dedicated $50 million annual Weatherization Readiness Program to repair structural hazards—like mold or roof damage—that prevent low-income homes from being weatherized (Tonko – 119th).

RESILIENCE

Strengthening resilience requires investing in infrastructure, planning, and preparedness that put communities first. These investments reduce pollution and long-term costs, create high-quality union jobs, and protect people and infrastructure in the face of growing climate risks.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. *****H.R. 6785, the Championing Local Efforts to Advance Resilience (CLEAR) Act** would empower states nationwide to establish and maintain resiliency offices, which will help communities withstand extreme weather events and provide the tools to come back stronger (Crow – 119th).
2. **S. 2340/H.R. 4515, the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act** would codify an Office of Climate Change and Health Equity within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The bill authorizes funding for a National Strategic Action Plan to prepare the health sector for climate-related threats, prioritizing vulnerable communities and environmental justice (Markey/Matsui – 119th).
3. **S. 3261, the National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience for Security (NCARS) Act** would lay out a national resilience and adaptation strategy and coordinated approach to increase American resilience in the face of increasing disaster risk. The bill establishes a Chief Resilience Officer at the White House to implement the plan, creates interagency Working Groups to streamline efforts and ensure accountability, establishes a Partners Council of outside resilience advisors, and creates a federal information hub to streamline resilience resources to communities (Coons & Murkowski – 118th).

Tackling Methane and Managing Carbon

Bold federal action on methane emissions and carbon management is essential to reduce climate pollution, improve public health, and strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness. Methane emissions from the oil and gas sector remain a significant source of near-term climate pollution, while carbon management technologies can help reduce emissions from hard-to-abate industries. Expanding deployment of these solutions can create jobs and lower emissions while advancing U.S. energy and environmental goals.

METHANE

Federal action is needed to reduce methane emissions. Congress should restore and strengthen methane pollution reduction policies, support deployment and export of U.S.-made methane mitigation technologies, and advance legislation that enhances leak detection and worker and public safety.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Undo the delay of the methane polluter fee—known as the Waste Emission Charge—under the Inflation Reduction Act Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP).** OBBBA delayed the charge until 2034. MERP's waste charge applies to only the largest polluting facilities in the oil and gas sector with excessive methane pollution. By reducing their emissions in line with industry's own targets, companies can avoid paying the charge. Legislation could improve upon the original charge by directing fee proceeds towards energy affordability programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and grants to address pollution from marginally producing wells, such as for equipment upgrades.
2. **Provide loans/export credit for developing countries to purchase U.S.-made methane emissions control equipment, leak detection, management, repair technology, and advisory services**, boosting U.S. manufacturing jobs and mitigating methane in line with the Global Methane Pledge.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. **H.R. 4818, the Gas Leak Detection and Repair Act of 2025** codifies the PHMSA advanced leak detection and repair rule for oil and gas pipelines put in place during the past administration, (Lujan/Rep. Peters – 119th).
2. **S. 2905/H.R. 5537, the Pipeline Accountability Act** makes major upgrades to PHMSA processes to improve rulemaking capacity and safety considerations, plus puts a ban on hydrogen blending until a safety rulemaking has been completed (Markey/Trahan – 119th).

CARBON MANAGEMENT

Responsible carbon management can play a supporting role in meeting climate goals by helping reduce the amount of carbon emitted from harder-to-abate sectors and removing legacy carbon pollution from the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide removal investments must prioritize pathways that meet high thresholds of environmental integrity, durability, scalability, and efficiency. These technologies must be deployed alongside deep emissions reductions and used in ways that protect workers and communities.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

1. **Improve the effectiveness of the 45Q tax credit for carbon capture** by aligning the incentive with the "CCS ladder," providing more money for harder-to-abate sectors in which carbon capture is an integral part of significantly reducing emissions.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. **S. 3615/H.R. 7054, the Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act** would direct DOE to purchase increasing amounts of carbon dioxide to be removed from the atmosphere, aiming to create a market for technologies like direct air capture. The bill establishes a declining per-ton price ceiling for the removals, starting at $750 per ton in 2024-2025 and falling to $150 by fiscal year 2035, while requiring high standards for monitoring, reporting, and verification (Rep. Tonko, Sen. Coons – 118th).
2. **S. 1576, the CREST Act** would invest in carbon removal research and development programs across solutions that harness natural processes and lead to permanent storage or utilization. The bill also creates a pilot purchasing program for carbon removal that uses a reverse auction (Collins – 118th).
3. **S. 5369, Carbon Dioxide Removal Investment Act** would establish a new, technology neutral production tax credit on a per-ton basis for removed atmospheric CO_2 (Murkowski & Bennet – 118th).

Addressing Racial and Economic Inequity and Creating Healthy and Safe Communities

The transition to a clean economy must also create a healthier and more equitable economy that leaves workers and communities better off than they were before. For too long, the very communities impacted by racial and economic inequity have also been those feeling disproportionate impacts of pollution, climate change, and the effects of this transition. The public resources necessary for the transition to a clean economy should include comprehensive standards to ensure that workers and communities—not just private companies—benefit from public investment.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Codify language in the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention final rule so that chemical facilities are safer** for workers, fenceline communities, and first responders.
2. **Defend the Toxic Substances Control Act/ Lautenburg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act of 2016** that included workers as a vulnerable population among other improvements.
3. **Reauthorize the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF/DWSRF)**. The most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) survey assessing drinking water infrastructure needs found that $625 billion was needed for pipe replacement, treatment plant upgrades, storage tanks, and other key assets. These programs should be reauthorized with funding of at least $10 billion each per year. Any earmarks should be separately authorized and funded and not taken from state revolving funds.
4. **Boost Lead Service Line Replacement funding**. The final enacted appropriations in the BIL were $15 billion over five years or $3 billion per year. Estimates of the cost of total lead service line replacement calculated in 2022 were approximately $60 billion though presumably that number has increased with inflation. Additionally, many municipalities in accordance with EPA's Lead Copper Rule Improvements will be required to remove lead service lines in the next decade and will need federal support to do so. Municipalities have lauded this program and the importance of having funds specifically for lead service line replacement.
5. **Develop legislation that directs OSHA and EPA to establish federal exposure standards for workers handling high-risk industrial materials**, including battery materials, advanced coatings, PFAS-containing products, carbon capture chemicals, and hydrogen infrastructure components.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. *****S. 5363, the Getting Toxic Substances out of Schools Act** provides funding to remove toxic substances from school buildings across the country. Toxic substances including lead, asbestos, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are particularly prevalent in high-poverty schools. (Markey – 118th).
2. *****S. 2298/H.R. 4443, the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness, Injury, and Fatality Prevention Act of 2025** proposes legislation to direct OSHA to promulgate a heat standard which is particularly relevant because there are other bills requiring OSHA to not finalize a heat standard (Padilla/Chu – 119th).
3. *****S. 4413/H.R. 3036, the Protecting America's Workers Act** expands OSHA coverage and protections, strengthens whistle blower remedies, increases civil and criminal penalties, and enhances reporting, inspection, and enforcement requirements. (Sanders & Baldwin/Courtney – 119th).
4. **H.R. 5104, the Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act of 2025** funds national heat data tracking and management by establishing the National Integrated Heat Health Information System and Interagency Committee to improve extreme heat preparedness, planning, and response, requiring a study, and establishing financial assistance programs to address heat effects (Bonamici – 119th).
5. **S. 3529/H.R. 6782, the Public Health Air Quality Act of 2025** requires the EPA to significantly expand and modernize air pollution monitoring, enforce stricter emissions reporting and corrective actions at high-risk facilities, enhance public access to air quality data, and prioritize protections for vulnerable communities, with substantial new funding and no exemptions for noncompliance (Blunt Rochester/Duckworth & Carter/Tonko – 119th).
6. **The Robert C. Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2025**, expands the Mine Safety and Health Administration's authority to strengthen safety regulations and enforce penalties against mines with repeat violations and empower miners to raise safety concerns (Kaine/Scott – 119th).

Increasing Energy Affordability

Rising energy prices affect everyone, particularly working-class and low-income families who can least afford higher utility bills. The same is true for energy-intensive manufacturers for whom the cost of energy is a significant proportion of their operating expenses and who can't grow—or even retain existing operations—if those costs are too high.

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

1. **Create or extend a commercial building energy efficiency tax credit modeled on the Investment Tax Credit to replace the Section 179D deduction.** Section 179D has been historically underutilized because it requires complex energy modeling to demonstrate compliance and provides deduction values that are difficult to estimate upfront. Converting this incentive to a straightforward, percentage-based tax credit tied to project costs would significantly increase certainty, reduce administrative burden, and dramatically increase uptake.
2. **Fully fund the WAP** to permanently lower energy bills for low-income households, improve health and safety, and deliver long-term, cost-effective energy efficiency savings nationwide.
3. **Fully fund the LIHEAP** to help vulnerable households afford heating and cooling costs, prevent utility shutoffs, and remain safe during periods of extreme weather and energy price volatility.
4. **Provide matching grants for states to establish and boost enrollment for energy affordability plans**, such as percent of income payment programs (PIPP) or debt arrears, akin to a Medicaid for energy.
5. **Establish a national energy affordability goal with clear targets for reducing the energy burden**. DOE and HHS would set common metrics (energy burden, arrears/disconnections), publish annual state and utility scorecards, and use federal funding preferences and model guidance to push measurable reductions in high energy burdens.
6. **Creating a federal energy lifeline credit for utility bills**, modeled on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for broadband, to deliver a simple, automatically applied monthly utility-bill discount for eligible low-income households.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1. **H.R. 7977, the Energy Bills Relief Act** would restore the clean energy tax credits repealed by the OBBBA's rollback of Inflation Reduction Act tax credits, create new tax credits for transmission investment, and create new rules to improve interregional transmission planning, among other proposals aimed at lowering utility bills (Casten & Levin – 119th).
2. **S. 1821, the Rural Energy Savings Act** would reauthorize the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), which provides interest-free loans to electric co-ops to allow their customers to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes or businesses, (Welch – 118th).
3. **H.R. 9340, The Ratepayer Protection Act** (as amended) would establish standards for states and Public Utility Commissions (PUCs) when connecting large-load customers, such as data centers and hyperscalers, to the electric grid, ensuring that the costs of new power generation, transmission lines, and other required infrastructure upgrades are borne by those customers rather than by other ratepayers (Castor/Evans – 119th).

Endnotes

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3 BlueGreen Alliance, Bait & Switch, July 15, 2026. https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/resources/bait-and-switch-the-impacts-of-trump-administration-policies-at-the-intersection-of-clean-energy-manufacturing-and-labor/

4 BlueGreen Alliance, Federal Siting and Permitting Reform Principles, July 2026. https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/BlueGreen-Alliance-Federal-Siting-and-Permitting-Reform-Principles_July-2026.pdf

5 BlueGreen Alliance, 2025 Manufacturing Roadmap, April 2025. https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Manufacturing-Roadmap.pdf

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