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Biden threatens veto of bill to scrap climate law provisions

By Kelsey Brugger, Heather Richards | 03/19/2024 01:34 PM EDT

The White House veto threat is the latest sign of displeasure from the administration about the House GOP's "energy week" agenda.



President Joe Biden walks out to board Marine One on at the White House on Tuesday. Evan Vucci/AP

The bill, [H.R. 1023](#), from Rep. Gary Palmer (R-Ala.) would repeal the Inflation Reduction Act's methane fee and greenhouse gas reduction fund, administered by EPA. The White House said the legislation, which incorporated [H.R. 1141](#) from Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas), would repeal programs that fight climate change and provide consumer savings.

“The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will provide \$27 billion for deployment of clean energy technologies that will cut energy costs and drive economic development in communities across the country and in various sectors of our economy including the power and transportation sectors,” the White House said in a statement.

"The Methane Emissions Reduction Program provides \$1.55 billion in investments to identify and help industry curb methane leaks from oil and natural gas production, helping to prevent energy waste and reducing harm to surrounding communities, including communities that are overburdened by pollution."

The bill, called the "Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act," is part of the House Republican “energy week,” which stands to showcase GOP priorities of supporting the oil and gas industry and cutting red tape.

The White House released policy statements [against other proposals](#) on the floor but did not issue veto threats. Environmentalists are also [expressing opposition](#).

Lobbying against Boebert bill

More than hundred elected officials from Colorado [wrote to House leadership Tuesday](#) opposing an attempt by Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) to block Biden’s oil and gas drilling reforms on public land.

The "Restoring American Energy Dominance Act," [H.R. 6009](#), would yank a proposed Bureau of Land Management rule to increase royalty rates and bonding for companies drilling on public lands, as well as limit new drilling to areas where oil potential is high. Addressing House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Colorado leaders say Boebert’s bill would gut needed reforms.

“The Bureau of Land Management is modernizing their rules as part of their agency responsibility to guide uses on public lands,” said Diego Plata, mayor of Gunnison, Colorado.

“Representative Boebert’s bill would not only halt a public process that has elicited thousands of supportive comments from Coloradans, but it would prohibit BLM from issuing a substantially similar rule in the future, in effect gutting part of BLM’s core mission that’s been in place for nearly 50 years,” Plata said.

Thirty-six members of the state’s Legislature — all Democrats — also signed the letter. Boebert has [said the rule](#) would be burdensome for smaller oil operators and have the effect of “disincentivizing development on our federal lands.”