

BAAJA Fact Sheet

CCL endorses the **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act** (BAAJA). This legislation will significantly reduce emissions, accelerate clean energy deployment, and lower electricity costs.



Transmission reform

America cannot deploy clean energy at the scale needed without substantially expanding and modernizing the grid. On transmission, the BAAJA is better than any previous bill and is a major climate win.

- Strengthens federal backstop authority for interstate transmission siting.
 - Requires stronger regional and interregional transmission planning and improves cost allocation.
 - Requires consideration of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced reconductoring.
 - Better coordinates transmission planning and interconnection and helps expedite the interconnection queue.
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Build faster

The below reforms are a compromise. Many of these reforms will enable far more climate-beneficial infrastructure to be built because, under the status quo, clean energy is disproportionately hindered by lengthy reviews and the risk of litigation.

- Narrows which projects trigger National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, including some transmission upgrades and projects in existing rights-of-way.
- Improves agency coordination and reduces duplicative permitting.
- Narrows some aspects of environmental review.
- Establishes a 150-day deadline for legal challenges under NEPA, the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.
- Limits the ability of litigation to halt already-approved projects and generally requires challengers to have participated earlier in the review process.



Fair permitting certainty

BAAJA creates more certainty for clean energy investment. Developers can invest in and build projects with greater confidence that lawful permits won't disappear when administrations change.

- Protects already-permitted projects from having federal approvals arbitrarily revoked.
- Prevents administrations from discriminating against an entire category of energy technology through permitting decisions.
- Gives developers legal recourse when the federal government unlawfully interferes with fully permitted projects.

Community engagement

Communities should have meaningful opportunities to shape projects through early, transparent engagement. BAAJA includes some improvements and some limitations in this area.

- Requires stakeholder engagement reports for projects undergoing an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.
- Creates an online permitting system to improve accessibility and transparency.
- Requires a 45-day comment period for all environmental impact statements under NEPA.
- Preserves a statutory role for Tribes in consultation over historic and cultural resources.

BAAJA includes major reforms that advance CCL's climate and clean energy priorities. It will significantly reduce emissions by making it much easier to build transmission and clean energy infrastructure.

After weighing the benefits and tradeoffs, we are confident BAAJA will benefit the climate, and **Citizens' Climate Lobby endorses this bill.**