

Tip Sheet: Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act

July 2019

The 116th Congress should prioritize the passage of the bipartisan Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act, H.R. 3794, led by Reps. Mike Levin (D-CA-49) and Paul Gosar (R-AZ-4).

What is the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act?

The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA) serves as a first step in unlocking the power of renewable energy potential of our public lands. If passed, this legislation would promote the responsible development of wind, solar, and geothermal resources on public lands by identifying priority areas and encouraging smart siting and efficient permitting of project in places with high energy potential and lower impact on wildlife and habitat. This bill provides economic benefits to states and counties and reinvests in local communities' recreation and habitat conservation. The legislation is supported by sportsmen, local governments, industry, and conservation organizations alike.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- **Direct the Department of the Interior (DOI) to identify appropriate areas for development.**
 - The bill directs DOI to identify additional priority areas for wind, solar and geothermal projects using the 2012 Western Solar Plan as a model. (Priority areas are also known as Designated Leasing Areas in the case of wind and solar).
 - Priority areas must meet certain criteria, including having access to transmission lines and being likely to avoid or minimize conflict with wildlife habitat, cultural resources and other resources and values.
 - Increases incentives for renewable energy development in priority areas.
 - Sets a goal for DOI to permit a total of 25 gigawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2025.
- **Distribute the revenue collected from renewable energy development on public lands in the following way:**
 - 25 percent would go to the state where the project is built;
 - 25 percent would go to the county where the project is built;
 - 25 percent of the revenue would be deposited in a fund for wildlife and land conservation and securing recreational access to public lands;
 - 15 percent of the revenue collected would go to the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate permitting of renewable energy projects;
 - 10 percent shall be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of reducing the annual Federal budget deficit.
- **Improve inter-agency cooperation on renewable energy projects on public lands.**
 - Expands the establishment of a national Renewable Energy Coordination Office which will improve Federal permit coordination with respect to renewable energy projects.
 - Directs agencies to provide staffing resources to ensure project permitting moves forward as efficiently as possible.

Status this Congress

Senate – The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act is pending reintroduction.

House – The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act was reintroduced on July 17, 2019.