

# The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH  
ACTION



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## ClearPath Action Rundown March 6th, 2026

### Happy Friday!

Congratulations to ClearPath's Head of Policy, [Lisa Epifani](#), on her [appointment](#) to the Export-Import Bank's 2026 Advisory Committee!

**Nominees advance** – Senate ENR [advanced](#) Steve Pearce to lead BLM, Kyle Haustveit as DOE undersecretary and David LaCerte to remain on FERC. Senate EPW also advanced Douglas Weaver to remain on the NRC.

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## 1. HNR moves key geothermal permitting bills, next stop House floor



The House Natural Resources Committee advanced several bipartisan bills, including six by unanimous consent, to unlock geothermal energy development.

Together, these bills will increase geothermal lease access, streamline permitting and better apply BLM best practices. ClearPath Action supports the following bills and looks forward to the House's full consideration:

- H.R. 301 (Rep. Maloy (R-UT)), [\*\*\*Geothermal Energy Opportunity \(GEO\) Act\*\*\*](#)
- H.R. 1077 (Rep. Lee (D-NV)), [\*\*\*Streamlining Thermal Energy through Advanced Mechanisms \(STEAM\) Act\*\*\*](#)
- H.R. 5576 (Rep. Fulcher (R-ID)), [\*\*\*Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act\*\*\*](#)
- H.R. 5587 (Rep. Kim (R-CA)), [\*\*\*Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources \(HEATS\) Act\*\*\*](#)
- H.R. 5631 (Rep. Hurd (R-CO)), [\*\*\*Geothermal Ombudsman for National Deployment and Optimal Reviews Act\*\*\*](#)

**What's clear:** Geothermal delivers reliable, American power, leveraging our drilling expertise and workforce. With smart permitting reforms, Congress can unlock private investment, strengthen energy security and meet rising power demand with domestic resources.

**Plug in:** ClearPath highlighted the importance of these reforms in our [\*\*recent report\*\*](#).

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## 2. A bill standardizing critical minerals lists passes the House



Critical minerals are essential for energy technologies, manufacturing and national security. The House passed Rep. Ciscomani's (R-AZ) **Critical Mineral Consistency Act** to create a single, government-wide **Critical Minerals and Materials List**.

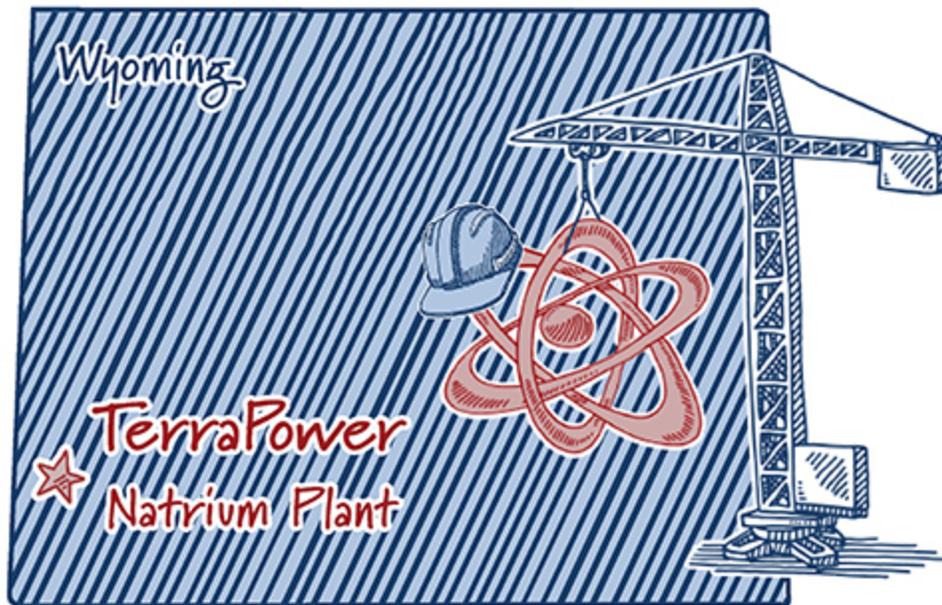
**This bill also:**

- Simplifies administrative decisions and reduces confusion across agencies; and
- Streamlines federal incentives and permitting benefits, including the FAST-41 process.

**What's clear:** The U.S. is 100% import reliant on 13 critical minerals and more than 50% reliant on another 20, which threatens national security, **energy independence** and economic competitiveness. This bill will strengthen domestic mineral supply chains, eliminate bureaucratic hurdles and provide a clear, consistent federal policy for managing the nation's critical resources.

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### **3. NRC issues first commercial reactor construction approval in over 10 years**



Winning the AI race means winning the nuclear power race, and America just took a major step. The NRC **approved construction** for TerraPower's Natrium reactor in Wyoming, which will be the first of its kind to start delivering an energy-dominant America.

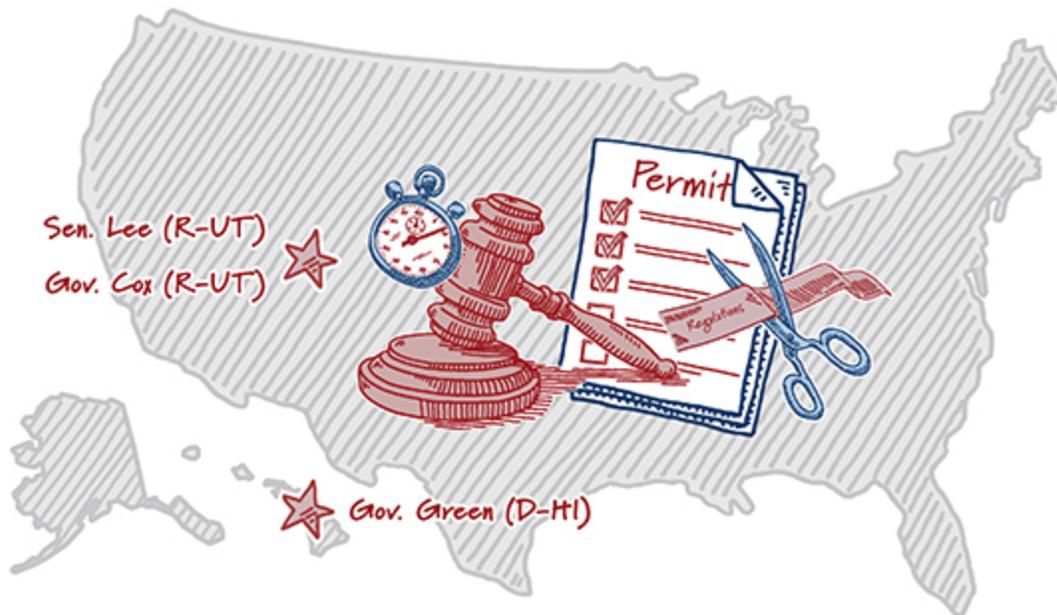
**What to know:**

- TerraPower's permit is the first permit for a new commercial reactor in nearly a decade and the first non-light-water reactor approved in over 40 years;
- The sodium-cooled Natrium reactor will generate 345 MW of baseload power and has an energy storage system that can boost output to 500 MW when the grid needs it; and
- This project is supported by DOE's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, which was created in the first Trump Administration.

**What's clear:** Advanced nuclear energy is a cornerstone of affordable, reliable, clean power and American energy leadership. Letting innovative U.S. companies build next-generation reactors strengthens domestic supply chains and opens global markets.

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## 4. Leaders push permitting reform as Senate negotiations resume



Bipartisan Senate permitting negotiations are **set to resume** after Sens. Whitehouse (D-RI) and Heinrich (D-NM) agreed to return to the negotiating table after the Interior Department **said** it would continue processing of solar and onshore wind project reviews. This comes as Congress has a generational opportunity to fix America's broken permitting system to achieve energy dominance and technological leadership.

**Senate ENR Chair Lee (R-UT) highlights transmission as a key piece of a NEPA reform deal:** He said in [Deseret News](#) that:

*"If the United States is going to rise to the moment, our power generation must scale at a pace the country has not seen in generations. And we must do this without increasing the cost of electricity or decreasing reliability for American families.*

*The problem is that America's government permitting framework makes this nearly impossible." - Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)*

**Governors Cox (R-UT) and Green (D-HI) wrote in [POWER Magazine](#):**

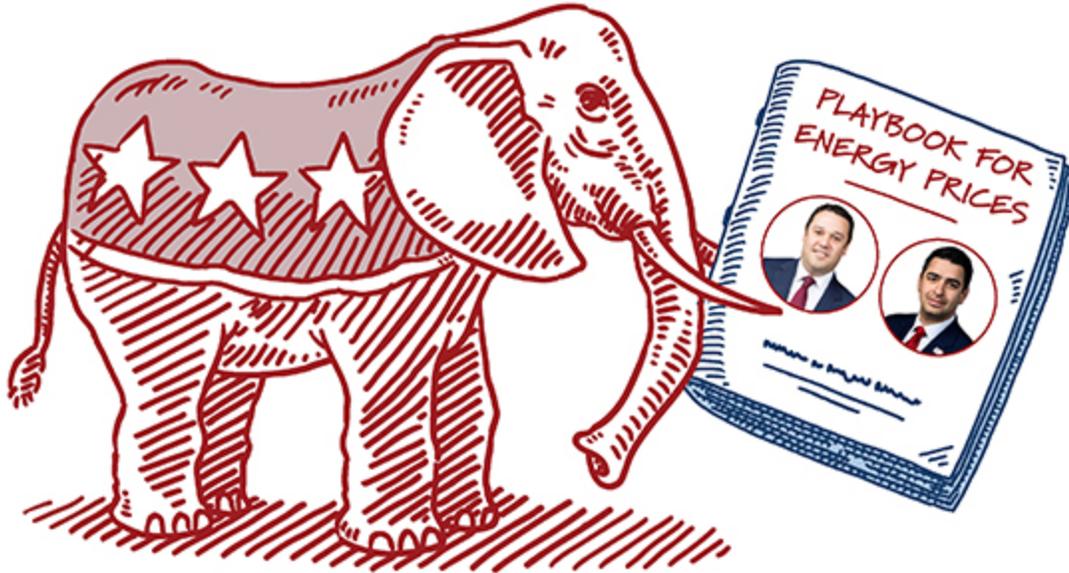
- Permitting bottlenecks are slowing emerging technologies;
- There is bipartisan political will to streamline permitting and unlock private investment; and
- By 2030, U.S. data centers could consume more electricity than the steel, aluminum and chemical industries combined.

**What's clear:** Investors want certainty to build new infrastructure. Permitting reform can provide clearer timelines and faster decisions, unlocking private investment and helping America build the energy system needed to meet rising demand.

**Plug in:** For more on the case for permitting reform, read ClearPath's [Time to Fix America's Permitting Problems and Let America Build](#).

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## 5. NEW OP-ED, Rep. Evans & Jeremy Harrell: Republicans have the playbook for energy prices



To meet growing energy demand and keep power affordable and reliable, America needs policies that spur innovative technologies. After a year of conservative energy wins, America has the playbook.

### Key points:

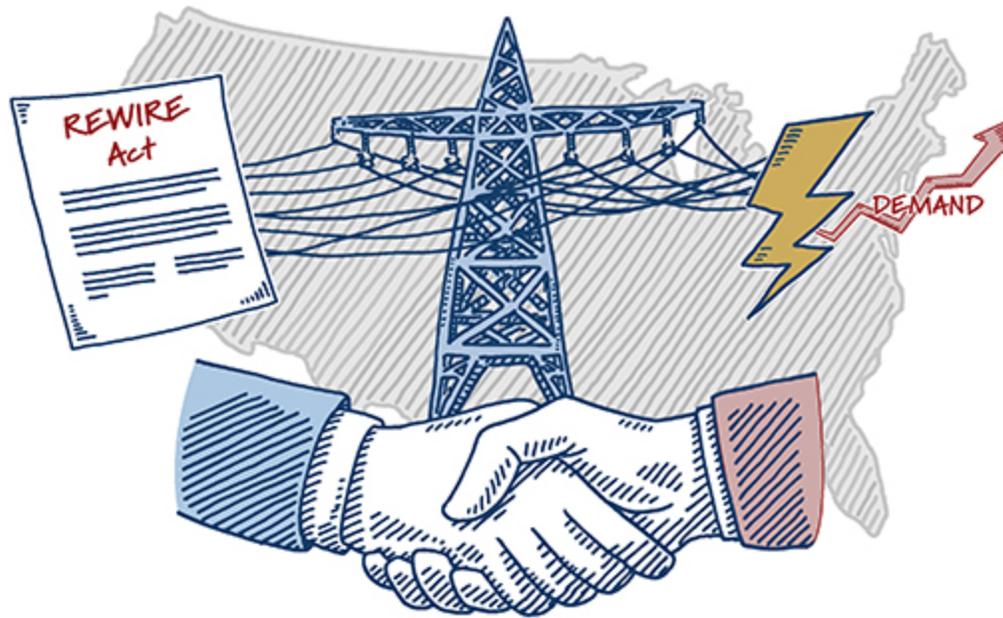
- **Supporting innovative energy solutions** including advanced nuclear, geothermal, storage and natural gas can strengthen grid reliability;
- **Providing the financing and partnerships** to move first-of-a-kind projects from concept to deployment can strengthen domestic supply chains and support manufacturing, data centers and energy development; and
- **Modernizing the federal permitting system** would provide the certainty investors need to build new infrastructure faster.

**What's clear:** Expanding domestic energy production, accelerating innovation and modernizing permitting can help lower energy costs while strengthening American energy leadership.

**Plug in:** Read the full op-ed from ClearPath CEO [Jeremy Harrell](#) and Rep. Evans (R-CO) in [The Hill](#).

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## 6. Bipartisan REWIRE Act lets American energy move



America needs a stronger, smarter grid to meet rising demand. Sens. McCormick (R-PA) and Welch (D-VT) introduced the **Reconductoring Existing Wires for Infrastructure Reliability and Expansion (REWIRE) Act** to streamline permitting and deployment of advanced grid technologies.

**The bill:**

- Creates categorical exclusions under NEPA for advanced conductors, grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) and energy storage projects that increase grid capacity;
- Directs FERC to improve return on equity for reconductoring projects;
- Expands Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program funding eligibility to include feasibility studies for reconductoring and GET projects; and
- Establishes regional collaboratives between DOE, national laboratories and universities on grid performance and advanced transmission technologies.

**What's clear:** America needs to build more transmission and increase the capacity of existing lines to meet rapidly rising demand. Advanced conductors and grid-enhancing technologies unlock more capacity on existing transmission lines quickly and affordably to meet near-term grid needs.

**Plug in:** Watch ClearPath's **video** explaining why modernizing America's electric grid is essential to meet rising energy demand and keep electricity affordable.

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## 7. Farm Bill passes House Ag Committee



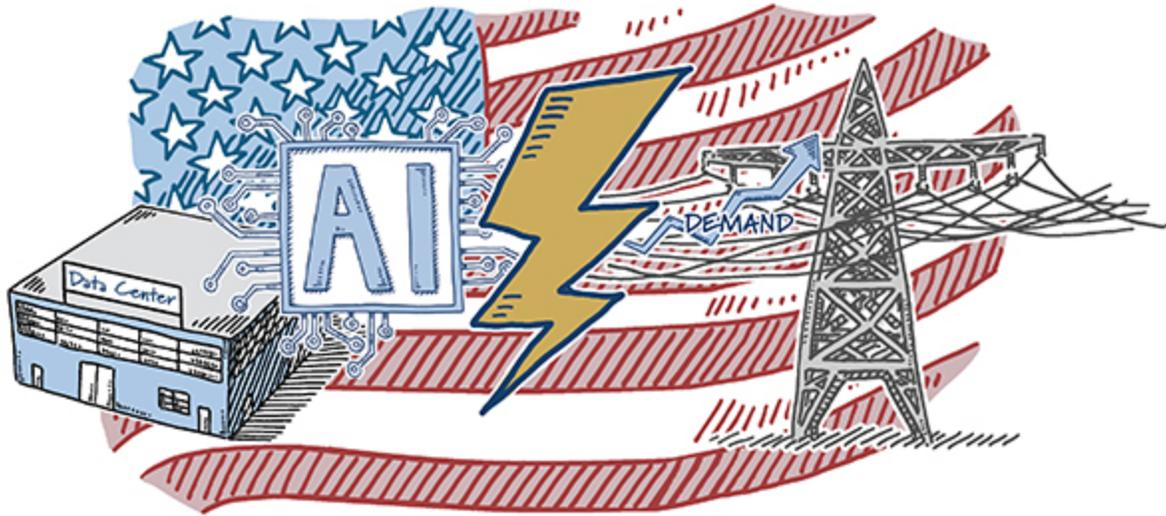
The House Agriculture Committee **passed** the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, aka **Farm Bill 2.0**, by a bipartisan vote of **34-17**. This bill equips American farmers and ranchers with voluntary, science-based tools to increase productivity and resilience, including:

- Reauthorizing and expanding the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA);
- Strengthening guidance for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR);
- Prioritizing biochar research; and
- Modernizing the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program.

**Plug in:** Agricultural innovation is necessary to ensure the U.S. regains and maintains leadership in agriculture, so that American farmers and ranchers have the most up-to-date tools to increase profitability, expand market access and promote soil health. Agricultural Innovation Policy Manager **Jasmine Yu** breaks it down for why America must **lead the way**.

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## 8. AI Boom underscores need for more American power



It will require affordable, reliable, clean American energy to win the AI race. President Trump brought Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, Oracle and xAI together to pledge their commitment to address **rising electricity demand and power costs** amid the rapid expansion of AI data centers. The Ratepayer Protection Pledge commits tech companies to:

- **Lead** on energy dominance and innovation by building, bringing or buying generation resources, including scalable power like nuclear and geothermal, to meet their surging demand;
- **Protect** Americans from rising costs by paying for all new grid infrastructure and their power needs, whether they use the power or not; and
- **Promote** community resilience and job growth by making their power resources available during emergencies and supporting workforce development.

**What's clear:** This pledge ensures that energy will be built affordably. Now we have to let America build and let American energy move through faster permitting processes.

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## 9. 250 years of American energy innovation



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to

modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

### **Brief History Lesson - Fusion**

- *Laser-Driven Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) research begins - 1960s*
- *Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor built, the first to test practical energy production - 1982*
- *Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor achieves world-record fusion power - 1994*
- *National Ignition Facility achieves first ignition (Energy Gain >1) - 2022*
- *First Commercial Fusion Power Purchase Agreement - 2023*

**Read on:** Fusion energy is moving from **breakthrough science** to commercial reality, with U.S. companies racing to deliver abundant, reliable, carbon-free power to the grid by the mid-2030s.

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## **10. ICYMI**

- **Private capital for nuclear fusion** – Nuclear fusion company SHINE Technologies **raised \$240 million** in equity funding. The investment will support the commercialization of SHINE's fusion technologies.
  - **Silver Peak expansion** – BLM approved an **expansion** of the Silver Peak mine in Nevada, the country's only active lithium mine. The Albemarle-operated project spans about 1,500 acres and adds new brine ponds, pump stations, pipelines and wells.
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*ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation...  
markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.*

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That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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ClearPath · 300 New Jersey Ave NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20001, United States

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