

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



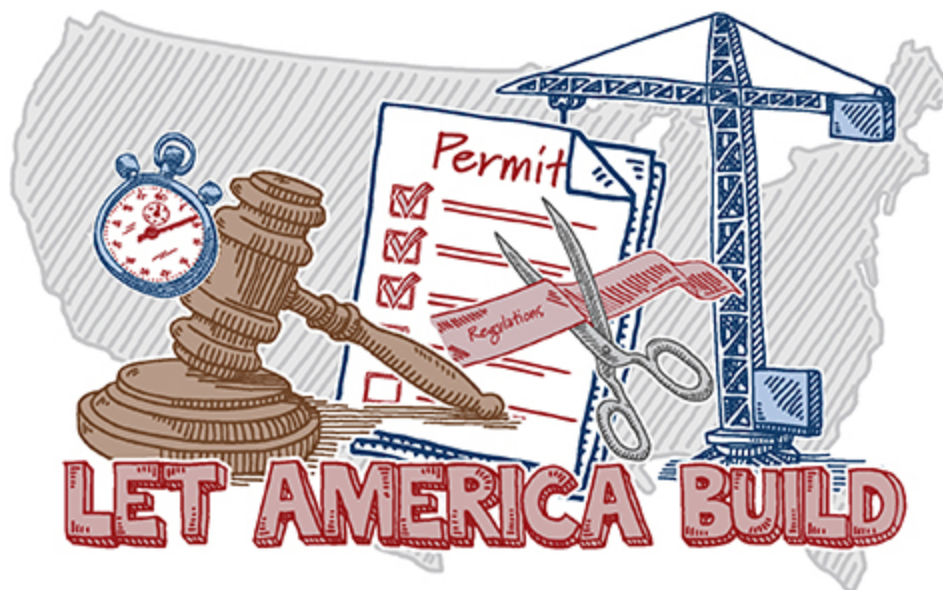
Join us on social below!



ClearPath Action Rundown October 16th, 2026

Happy Friday!

1. Let America build: the permitting push



This week: affordability comes first.

Lowering power bills starts with building more energy infrastructure. The **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act** (BAAJA), from Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Mike Lee (R-UT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM), will modernize how America permits and connects new power, so we can build more. Each week, we'll break down one way the bill delivers, starting with your electric bill.

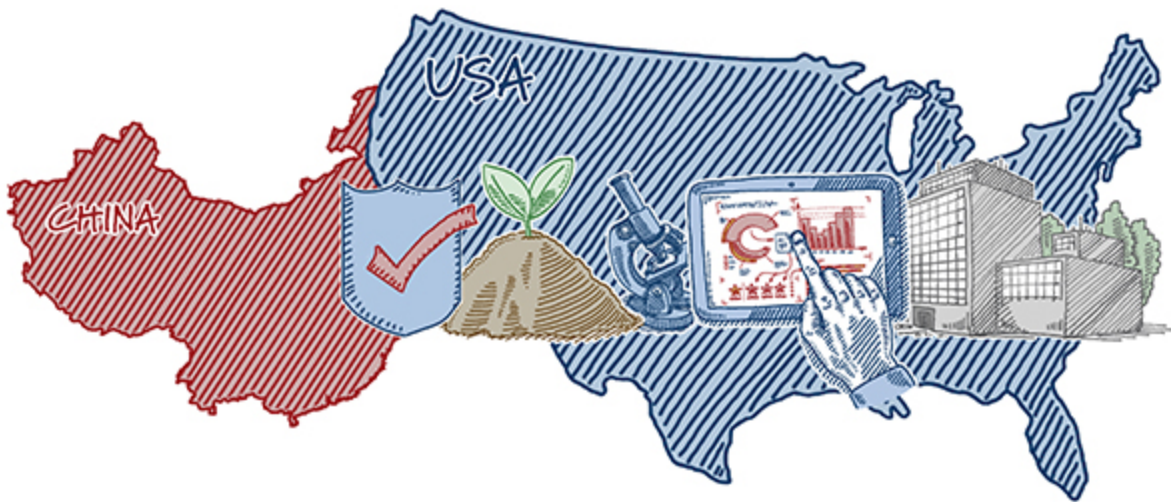
Why BAAJA matters for affordability:

- More supply, lower prices: Modernized permitting means more energy, and more energy means lower costs over the long term;
- Households don't foot the bill: Data centers and other large computing loads **pay for the grid upgrades they require**, not ratepayers; and
- Stalled power moves: More than **2,000 gigawatts** of proposed generation and storage are waiting in interconnection queues, and the bill modernizes how those projects connect to the grid.

What's clear: The surest way to lower power bills is to build a bigger grid. Congress should pass this bill to let America build.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's "**Permitting 101**" for how permitting delays hold back new energy and what it will take to fix them.

2. NEW blog: China is coming for America's farm data



The seed genetics, soil data and precision agriculture tools behind American crops took decades of research to build, and China wants them. **ClearPath's new blog** by Jasmine Yu shows how the Chinese Communist Party has targeted American farm data and intellectual property, and steps Congress can take to protect that research before China copies it and undercuts American farmers in global markets.

The blog:

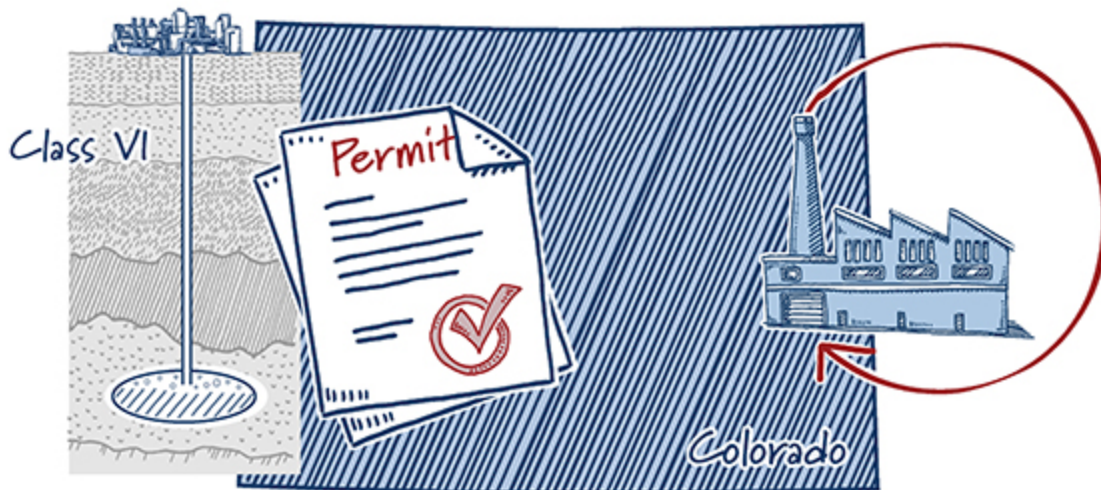
- Details theft on American soil, from a Chinese seed company director who **dug up proprietary corn seed** in Iowa to a scientist **convicted of economic**

- **espionage** for taking a farm data algorithm to China;
- Warns that China is running the same playbook on seeds that left the U.S. dependent on Chinese medicines: copy the technology, overbuild production and undercut American producers on price; and
- Outlines how USDA's new farm data efforts with multiyear research funding through the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority could keep American farm innovation ahead of China.

What's clear: America's farm advantage was built one field trial at a time. Protecting that research, and funding the next round of it, is how American farmers stay ahead of China.

Plug in: Read Jasmine Yu's full blog, "[**They've Been in Our Fields: How China Is Stealing America's Agricultural Advantage**](#)," for how USDA's new data efforts can keep American farm innovation at home.

3. Colorado takes the wheel on carbon storage permits



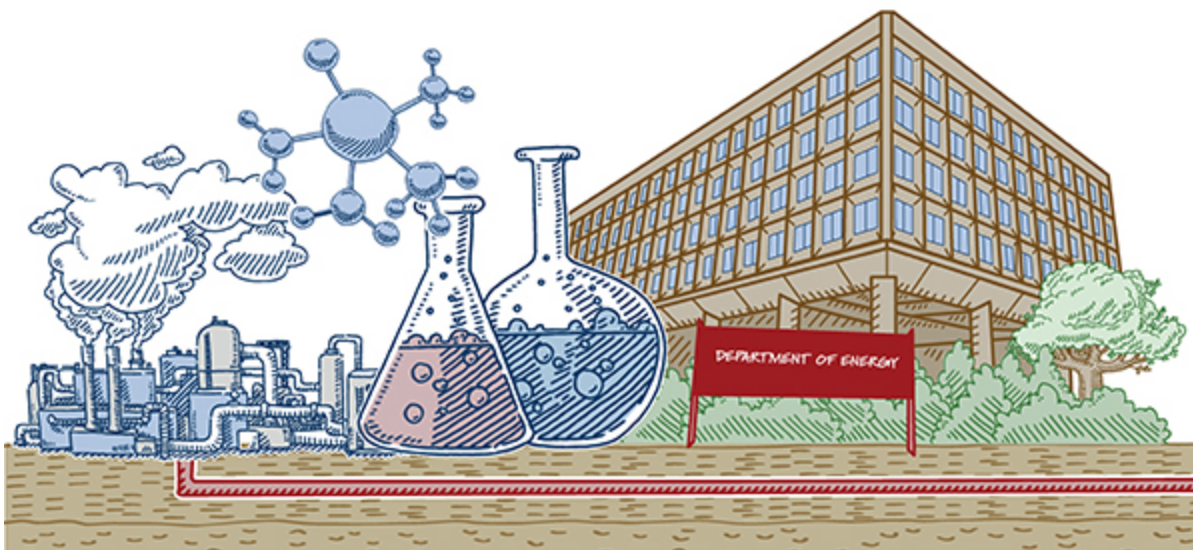
The Environmental Protection Agency **granted Colorado Class VI primacy**, allowing the state to run its own permitting program for carbon storage. This decision makes Colorado the seventh state with Class VI primacy after North Dakota, Wyoming, Louisiana, West Virginia, Arizona and Texas.

What to know:

- Class VI primacy will allow Colorado to make permitting decisions for underground carbon storage;
- Colorado's Energy and Carbon Management Commission will review permits, set monitoring rules, establish requirements for long-term site care and more; and
- A May **agreement with Wyoming** lets the two states coordinate on storage projects within one mile of their shared border.

What's clear: States have decades of experience overseeing injection wells and know their own geology. Putting them in charge of carbon storage permits cuts the wait and lets Colorado operators store carbon in the ground.

4. DOE puts existing refineries and pipelines to work on new chemicals



American chemical innovators are manufacturing the chemicals and fuels the economy needs securely at home, with lower emissions than competitors like China. DOE's Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office **plans to award** up to \$60 million for projects that enable existing infrastructure to integrate alternative feedstocks and fuels, like biomass and hydrogen, to produce cost-competitive fuels and chemicals, like fertilizer.

The funding will:

- Build pilot depots that turn biomass and waste into liquid products like bio-oils and high-impact chemicals;
- Help existing refineries incorporate alternative feedstocks to make commodity chemicals and fuels; and
- Stand up pilot sites to test blending hydrogen into natural gas pipelines.

What's clear: America doesn't need to build a new chemical industry from scratch. Putting existing refineries and pipelines to work with multiple feedstocks is the fastest way to cut both import reliance and emissions.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's "**American Chemical Innovation Can Secure Supply Chain Independence**" to see where this industry is headed and how federal support can accelerate those breakthroughs for competitiveness.

5. The Circuit



ClearPath's Head of Policy, Lisa Epifani, spoke at the Aspen Institute's **Aspen Ideas: Economy Forum** in Tulsa, OK, alongside Sen. Alan Armstrong (R-OK), where they discussed the state of permitting reform.



ClearPath CEO Jeremy Harrell joined Xan Fishman from the Bipartisan Policy Center for a webinar titled "**A Detailed Walkthrough of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act**," where they discussed the Senate's new permitting package.



ClearPath's Elizabeth Stulberg spoke on the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology's webinar "**The Future of American Agriculture**," where she discussed ideas leading American innovation in the agricultural sector.



ClearPath's Niko McMurray spoke at the Montclair State University Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center's event titled "[Seminar on New Nuclear Energy and Opportunities for New Jersey](#)," where he discussed recent developments for new nuclear energy in New Jersey.



ClearPath's Savvy Bowman spoke at the American Council for Capital Formation's third annual [Louisiana Economic and Energy Security Summit](#) in New Orleans on a panel titled "Made in America: Building the Next Industrial Base."

6. ICYMI

- Silverado Policy Accelerator [released](#) a new report on the barriers holding back global American energy sales, with policy recommendations to help U.S. producers compete in global markets. ClearPath supported the research.
- USDA [announced](#) about \$1.8 billion in 2026 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments to farmers and landowners, including rental payments on nearly one million new acres of CRP Grassland, which lets ranchers keep grazing and haying while maintaining forage or seed harvest.
- Frontier Climate, a carbon removal innovation fund, [announced](#) an \$11.7 million offtake with a company called 44.01 to remove and store 21,000 tons of CO2 between 2028 and 2031 through in-situ mineralization, a process that turns CO2 into solid rock underground.



*ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation...
markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.*

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

- Did someone forward this to you? [Sign up here](#).
- Miss a week? Catch up on our [Rundown archive](#).
- Follow us on Twitter: [@ClearPathAction](#) / [@jharrell](#)

View this Rundown [online](#).

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

This email was sent to digrado@clearpath.org · [Unsubscribe](#)

Created with [NationBuilder](#). Build the Future.