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**Committee:** House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Environment

**Event:** [Environment Subcommittee Markup](#)

**Date:** May 14, 2026

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***Executive Summary:***

On May 14, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Energy Subcommittee hosted a markup of the following bills: Brownfields Revitalization for a Better Tomorrow Act (Brownfields Act) ([H.R. 8739](#)), Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (RIAA) ([H.R. 2145](#)), and Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA) ([H.R. 4109](#)). Notably, RCAA was adopted into RIAA and then passed. Both the Brownfields Act and RIAA were forwarded to the full Committee.

***Member Toplines:***

[Chair Gary Palmer \(R-AL-06\)](#): Palmer provided an overview of the bills, noting that the Brownfields Act incorporates policy updates that reflect stakeholder feedback, including increased grant award amounts, a waiver cost share requirement for small or disadvantaged communities, additional oversight of the revolving loan funds, and new ideas to accelerate site remediation. He flagged that the bill requires the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to issue guidance to help agencies utilize site specific information, such as previous environmental reviews. Turning to RIAA, Palmer emphasized that increased recycling rates protects domestic supply chains, therefore enhancing economic and national security. Palmer said that the Committee plans to add RCAA to RIAA via amendment.

[Ranking Member Paul Tonko \(D-NY-20\)](#)<sup>1</sup>: Tonko explained that RIAA would establish a pilot program at the EPA to award grants to improve recycling accessibility in underserved and rural communities. He noted that both RIAA and RCAA enjoy bipartisan support. Turning to the Brownfields Act, Tonko acknowledged the value of increasing the maximum award limit to \$1 million and the cost share waiver, but voiced concern on the reduced funding levels from both the EPA and states.

[Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie \(R-KY-02\)](#): Guthrie attested to the bills' bipartisan support and affirmed that he will continue to work with the Democrats on resolving the Brownfields Act funding challenges. He reiterated that RCAA and RIAA will be combined, mirroring the Senate's passage of the STEWARD Act ([S. 351](#)).

[Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone \(D-NJ-06\)](#): Pallone reiterated concerns at the Brownfields Act funding cuts. He expressed support for RIAA and RCAA and underscored that more needs to be done to combat microplastics and plastic pollution.

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<sup>1</sup> Neither Ranking Member Tonko, Full Committee Chair Guthrie, nor Rep. Barragán's opening statements were available at the time of this memo's composition.

*Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-CA-44):* Barragán expressed dismay at the funding cuts to the Brownfields Act, citing the program's value in cleaning up contaminated land and water supply.

**Legislation of Interest Considered:**

- I. [H.R. 8739](#), Brownfields Revitalization for a Better Tomorrow Act
  - Rep. **Buddy Carter** (R-GA-01) stated that the bill will bolster the program to address the remaining 450,000 brownfields sites, while also instituting proper oversight via a biannual requirement for the Inspector General to audit the grants.
  - Reps. **Raul Ruiz** (D-CA-25) and **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08) expressed dismay at reducing funding, underscoring that brownfield sites and therefore a reduction in remediation efforts disproportionately impact economically distressed communities.
    - Rep. **Darren Soto** (D-FL-09) commended the addition of the cost sharing mechanism, but reiterated disappointment at the reducing funding.
  - Guthrie defended the spending levels, asserting that the authorization levels reflect the recently enacted appropriations. He noted that the Senate is considering an increased authorization and committed to further bipartisan, bicameral collaboration.
    - Pallone pushed back, advocating for increased authorized levels, noting that every federal dollar invested in the Brownfields Program has a \$20 return.
  - The bill was adopted by a voice vote and forwarded to the full Committee.
  
- II. [H.R. 2145](#), Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act
  - Rep. **Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (R-IA-02) spoke in favor of her bill, reporting that over a third of her state's households lack access to recycling services. She underscored that recycling is an economic and national security imperative, noting that China and other competitors purchase U.S. scrap above market prices, and additional, recyclable metal is wasted and sent to the landfill.
  - Rep. **Troy Carter** (D-LA-02) flagged that Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region are primed for recycling markets, but lack the recycling infrastructure to collect and access second-hand aluminum, glass, and plastic. He expressed support for his bill.
  - Rep. **Gabe Evans** (R-CO-04) proposed an amendment to harmonize the bill with the STEWARD Act, adding the RCAA language to the RIAA bill text.
    - The amendment was agreed to by a voice vote.
  - The bill was adopted by a voice vote and forwarded to the full Committee.