



Committee: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Event: [Business Meeting to Consider Pending Legislation](#)
Date: June 10, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Wednesday, June 10, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a business meeting to consider [17 bills](#), down from the 33 originally scheduled for consideration. The markup was contentious, with members raising concerns about the Committee's process for selecting legislation for consideration. Democratic members also objected to the inclusion of a provision in the Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025 ([S.140](#)) that would repeal the Roadless Rule. All 17 bills were reported favorably by the committee, with 13 approved en bloc by voice vote.

Member Toplines:

*Chair Mike Lee (R-UT)*¹: Lee expressed support for legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study on a selective water withdrawal system at Glen Canyon Dam. Lee also defended the Committee's bipartisan record under his chairmanship, citing an unusually balanced consideration of Republican and Democratic bills. He expressed frustration that many bills approved by the Committee have not advanced on the Senate floor, arguing that Democratic opposition has hindered efforts to move legislation and warning that the Committee could no longer maintain its current approach without greater cooperation from the minority.

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM): Heinrich expressed disappointment that the Committee's markup did not include several Democratic priorities, particularly conservation and public lands legislation that he noted had previously received bipartisan support. He emphasized that Democratic members have a growing list of priorities awaiting consideration and urged greater collaboration and compromise to advance legislation.

Legislation of Interest Considered:

Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025 ([S.140](#))

- Sens. **Ron Wyden** (D-OR), along with Sens. **Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), **Alex Padilla** (D-CA), **Ruben Gallego** (D-AZ), and **Mazie Hirono** (D-HI), offered a second-degree amendment to strike the provision repealing the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- Wyden argued that repealing the rule would increase wildfire risk, citing a 2026 study of National Forest System wildfire data that found wildfire ignition density within 50 meters of roads is approximately four times higher than in roadless areas.

¹ Chair Lee's opening statement was not available online at the time of this memo's composition.

- Cantwell highlighted what she described as a growing partisan divide over public lands policy, noting that Republicans have generally supported expanding opportunities for public land sales while Democrats have favored conservation and acquisition efforts.
- Padilla echoed Heinrich's concerns that Democratic priorities are not receiving adequate consideration during the committee's scheduling process and urged a more balanced approach to future markups.
- Sens. **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) and **Jim Risch** (R-ID) both spoke in favor of a more state-based approach to addressing the Roadless Rule.
- Sens. Padilla and **John Hickenlooper** (D-CO) pointed to the bipartisan development of the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) ([S.1462](#)) as a model for advancing wildfire legislation. Padilla argued that including the Roadless Rule repeal in the Wildfire Prevention Act could jeopardize the bipartisan momentum behind FOFA.
- The amendment failed 11-9.
- **The legislation was reported favorably by a vote of 11-9.**

Mineral Extraction for Renewable Industry and Critical Applications (MERICA) Act of 2025 ([H.R. 3872](#))

- Heinrich proposed an amendment to ensure that lands acquired for the public with funds from the Land & Water Conservation Fund or under the *Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act* are not unintentionally open to hard rock mining.
 - Heinrich noted that the bill, as written, could allow lands acquired for recreation, conservation, and wildlife habitat to be open to hard rock mining
 - The amendment passed 11-9.
- Heinrich proposed another amendment, which would use the revenue from hard rock mining enabled by the MERICA Act and dedicate it to the Abandoned Hard Rock Mine Reclamation Program.
 - Heinrich noted that there is currently no dedicated funding source for the abandoned Hard Rock Mine Reclamation program.
 - The amendment failed 11-9.
- The legislation was reported favorably by a vote of 11-9.

Hydropower Licensing Transparency Act ([S.3500](#)|[H.R.3657](#))

- The Committee voted on the legislation en bloc without debate. The legislation was agreed to by voice vote.

Fair Licensing for Operations of Water Structures (FLOWS) Act ([S.3518](#))

- The Committee voted on the legislation en bloc without debate. The legislation was agreed to by voice vote.

Critical Minerals Security Act of 2025 ([S.789](#))

- The Committee voted on the legislation en bloc without debate. The legislation was agreed to by voice vote.