



Committee: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Event: [Business Meeting to Consider Pending Legislation](#)
Date: July 29, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Wednesday, July 29, 2026, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a business meeting to consider [20 bills](#), down from the 39 originally scheduled for consideration. Democrats expressed concern regarding the size of land conveyances included and a lack of conservation bills being considered, while Republicans advocated for the advancement of local impact legislation on the Senate floor.

Our readout focuses on three bills of interest, listed below; the full list of legislation considered by the Committee can be found [here](#).

- Geothermal Energy Advancement Act ([H.R. 5631](#))
- License to Drill Act ([H.R. 7831](#) | [S. 5039](#))
- A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide for the payment of bonus payments of certain coal leases issued under that Act ([S. 4410](#))

All 20 bills were reported favorably by the Committee, with 18 approved en bloc by voice vote.

Member Toplines:

*Chair Mike Lee (R-UT)*¹: Lee expressed his frustration that many of the bipartisan bills that have previously passed unanimously out of Committee have not been considered on the Senate floor. He also argued that Democratic opposition has been attempting to add local impact legislation to larger packages that won't pass the Senate. He advocated for passing individual bills or in bipartisan pairings. Lee voiced his support for the License to Drill Act and highlighted that with permitting reform, energy producers can get started faster and continue developing American energy independence.

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM): Heinrich expressed support for the Geothermal Energy Advancement Act, emphasizing the increasingly important role of geothermal energy and the need for efficient permitting. He voiced concern for the lack of legislation conserving public lands being considered by the Committee.

¹ Chair Lee's and Ranking Member Heinrich's opening statements were not available online at the time of this memo's composition.

Key Legislation Considered:

Geothermal Energy Advancement Act ([H.R. 5631](#))

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

License to Drill Act ([H.R. 7831](#)|[S. 5039](#))

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

A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide for the payment of bonus payments of certain coal leases issued under that Act ([S. 4410](#))

I. Member Toplines

- Heinrich expressed his opposition to the bill. He argued that due to inflation, increasing the number of years allowed for companies to repay their bids will serve as a subsidy for the coal industry.

II. Favorably reported by a party-line vote of 11-9.