



Committee: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Event: [Business Meeting to Consider Pending Legislation](#)
Date: September 30, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Wednesday, September 30, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a business meeting to consider 20 bills, down from the [54](#) originally scheduled for consideration. Members referenced the forthcoming permitting reform agreement negotiated by Committee leadership, praising the bipartisan work and compromise that went into reaching the agreement. All 20 bills were reported favorably by the committee, with 16 approved en bloc by voice vote.

Legislation of Interest:

- GRID Power Act ([S.465](#))
- LIT Act of 2025 ([S.1568](#))
- Geo POWER Act ([S.4116](#))
- Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act ([S.4406](#))
- SECURE Grid Act ([S.4166](#))
- Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026 ([S.4870](#))
- Desalination Reauthorization Act ([S.5352](#))

Member Toplines¹:

Chair Mike Lee (R-UT): Lee expressed support for all legislation under consideration, specifically highlighting his Liberating Incandescent Technology (LIT) Act ([S.1568](#)), which would exempt incandescent light bulbs from federal efficiency requirements. He also emphasized the Committee's bipartisan work on permitting reform, arguing that the current federal permitting process creates costly delays and uncertainty for infrastructure and energy projects. Lee highlighted his negotiations with Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Senate Environment & Public Works Committee leadership on a bipartisan permitting agreement.

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM): Heinrich expressed support for several bills under consideration, including legislation related to grid cybersecurity and geothermal research. He criticized the exclusion of bipartisan weatherization legislation from the markup and opposed the LIT Act, citing concerns about consumer energy costs and opposition from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association and the American Lighting Association, which warned that the legislation could result in an influx of Chinese-made products. Heinrich also raised concerns about the GRID Power Act ([S.465](#)) prioritizing baseload generation over renewables.

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

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV): Cortez Masto expressed support for the Secure Grid Act ([S.4166](#)) and the Next Generation Geothermal Research & Development Act ([S.4406](#)). She highlighted Nevada's role as the second-largest producer of geothermal electricity in the country and emphasized the legislation's potential to support U.S. geothermal innovation and job creation. Cortez Masto also expressed disappointment that three Nevada public lands bills were not included in the markup and urged the Committee to consider them together at its next markup.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK): Murkowski expressed support for the Next Generation Geothermal Research & Development Act, highlighting the significant potential of enhanced geothermal technologies to expand access to geothermal resources. She also expressed support for the Secure Grid Act and the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act ([S.4870](#)). Murkowski also expressed support for the work on the bipartisan permitting reform agreement, emphasizing the importance of compromise and arguing that the reforms would support economic development and infrastructure projects across the country.

Amendments Considered: The committee voted on and approved 11 amendments en bloc without debate. Amendments to legislation of interest are listed below;

- [Amendment number 35A](#) to the Geo POWER Act authorizes \$800 million for next-generation geothermal demonstration projects.
- [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute number 36A](#) to the SECURE Grid Act
- [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute number 44A](#) to the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026
- [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute number 45A](#) to the Desalination Reauthorization Act

Legislation of Interest Considered:

GRID Power Act ([S.465](#))

- Heinrich offered an [amendment](#) to remove the word “dispatchable” from the legislation, making the interconnection queue reforms generation-neutral rather than limiting them to baseload generation.
 - Sen. **John Hoeven** (R-ND) opposed the amendment, emphasizing the importance of dispatchable baseload power to grid reliability and arguing that connecting intermittent resources to the grid before baseload generation could undermine reliability.
 - The amendment failed 11-9.
- **The legislation was reported favorably by a vote of 11-9.**

LIT Act of 2025 ([S.1568](#))

- The Committee voted on the legislation without debate. The legislation was reported favorably by a vote of 11-9.

Geo POWER Act ([S.4116](#))

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

Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act ([S.4406](#))

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

SECURE Grid Act ([S.4166](#))

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

Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026 ([S.4870](#))

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

Desalination Reauthorization Act ([S.5352](#))

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