



THE ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015
A BIPARTISAN BILL FOR A NEW ERA OF ENERGY IN AMERICA

On July 22, 2015, Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) unveiled the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee’s broad, bipartisan energy bill. Focused on a wide range of national energy opportunities and challenges, the *Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015* shows what is possible when Senators work together and strive to reach agreement.

The *Energy Policy Modernization Act* builds on recent technological breakthroughs and promises to bring substantial benefits to American families and businesses while protecting the environment. It will save energy, expand domestic supplies, facilitate investment into critical infrastructure, protect the grid, boost energy trade, improve the performance of federal agencies, and renew programs that have proven effective. The end result will be more affordable energy, more abundant energy, and more functional energy systems throughout the U.S. to strengthen and sustain our energy renaissance. Best of all, the *Energy Policy Modernization Act* achieves these goals in a fiscally-responsible manner.

The development of this bill has been open and transparent from the start. Committee staff began the year in listening sessions with stakeholders in Washington, DC and across the nation. The full Committee then held four hearings on 114 bills that were introduced by many Senators on a broad array of topics. After weeks of negotiations, this bill represents the common ground that exists for modernizing our energy policies on efficiency, infrastructure, supply, accountability, and reauthorizing conservation programs.

– SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS –

Title I – Efficiency – Energy efficiency provides significant benefits for consumers, the economy, and the environment. The provisions in this title include agreements on everything from longer-term utility energy service contracts to the reauthorization of the weatherization and state energy programs. The efficiency of our homes, buildings, and manufacturing facilities all stand to increase as a result of it.

Title II – Infrastructure – We depend on electrical transmission lines and other infrastructure to transport energy from where it is produced to where it is used. This title will help modernize our electrical grid, enhance cybersecurity safeguards, maintain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, provide a streamlined process for natural gas export projects, and ensure a qualified, well-trained workforce.

Title III – Supply – To provide for an energy supply that is increasingly abundant, affordable, clean, diverse, and secure, this title focuses on the development of renewable energy, traditional resources, and non-fuel minerals alike. The responsible development of American resources – including hydropower geothermal, bioenergy and rare earth elements – will strengthen our economy, competitiveness, and security for decades to come.

Title IV – Accountability – Practical reforms are needed to advance innovation, protect electric reliability, and ensure the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Among the provisions in this title are the reauthorization of certain energy-related components of the America COMPETES Act, better interagency coordination of energy/water initiatives, and the repeal of numerous provisions within the U.S. Code that are outdated or redundant.

Title V – Conservation Reauthorization – The Committee is also responsible for oversight and stewardship of our public lands. The bipartisan legislation permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund in a way that balances land acquisition with other conservation programs important to states and permanently reauthorizes the Historic Preservation Fund, both set to expire this fall. It also creates a new National Park Maintenance and Revitalization Fund, to address the maintenance backlog at some of our nation’s most treasured public places.