

# GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

## FEDERAL – Legislative

**H. J. Res. 163 – Resolution to Block Biden Administration Plan to Shutter American Power Plants.** On June 26, [H. J. Res. 163](#) was officially introduced by Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH). The joint resolution provides “a formal challenge to the Biden Administration’s regulations intended to shut down American power plants through a Congressional Review Act (CRA) joint resolution of disapproval.” According to Rep. Balderson, “The resolution comes after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final rules, dubbed the Clean Power Plan 2.0, that impose unrealistic emissions requirements on existing coal-fired power plants and newly constructed gas-fired power plants. This attempt to force the closure of power plants that supply America’s baseload electricity was previously tried under President Obama and overturned by the Supreme Court in *West Virginia v. EPA*.” (See “New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule;” [89 Fed. Reg. 39798](#)). An [identical resolution](#) was also introduced by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). [Read more.](#)

**Senate Budget Committee Opens Investigation into Oil Producer Coordination with OPEC.** On June 27, U.S. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) announced he “launched an investigation demanding answers from 18 oil producers about any efforts to illegally coordinate with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.” [Read more.](#) According to Sen. Whitehouse, “The new probe follows revelations from the Federal Trade

Commission that former Pioneer CEO Scott Sheffield attempted to work with OPEC to manipulate global oil and gas production, increase oil and gas prices, and boost his company’s profits. The FTC completed its investigation as part of its review of ExxonMobil’s bid to acquire Pioneer, a \$64.5 billion deal that represents the largest fossil fuel merger in 20 years.” Sheffield has denied those allegations. “At no time did government officials and Mr. Sheffield exchange competitively sensitive information,” according to Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Sheffield’s counsel commenting on his behalf. Sen. Whitehouse has sent letters to the 18 oil and gas companies requesting certain information by July 12, 2024. [Read the letters here.](#)

## FEDERAL – Regulatory

**BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Kansas; New Mexico.** On June 24, the *Oil & Gas Journal* reported that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) “received \$34.4 million in high bids during its most recent lease sale in New Mexico and Kansas. BLM offered 18 parcels covering 3,128 acres. In total, it received 451 bids on 14 parcels covering 2,768 acres, roughly 88.5% of the total acreage offered, the Interior Department division said in a statement.” [Read more.](#)

**BLM Resource Advisory Council Meeting – Colorado.** On June 26, the BLM announced a number of Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) public meetings and field tours to be held in August and November 2024. According to the BLM, “The 15-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of public land issues in the Southwest District, which consists of the Gunnison, Tres Rios, and Uncompahgre field offices.” The meetings and field tours are open to the public. [Read more.](#)

### **BLM Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee Meeting – Utah.**

On June 27, the BLM announced that the Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee will meet on August 7, 2024, for a field tour. “The 15-member Committee represents a wide range of stakeholders including State and local government, paleontological and archaeological interests, the conservation community, livestock grazing permittees, Tribal members, developed and dispersed recreation interests, private landowners, local business owners, and the public at large.” Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee meetings and field tours are open to the public. [Read more.](#)

### **BLM Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy. (Update to 5/13/24 Report)**

On June 28, the BLM issued a correction for the following rulemaking to correct their errors in the original final rule release as provided. (See *Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy; Corrections*; [89 Fed. Reg. 53869](#)). For background, on May 1, the BLM released a final rule, *Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy* ([89 Fed. Reg. 35634](#)), that “updates procedures governing the BLM’s renewable energy and right-of-way programs, focusing on two main topics. The first topic is solar and wind energy generation rents and fees, implementing new authority from the Energy Act of 2020 to ‘reduce acreage rental rates and capacity fees, or both, for existing and new wind and solar authorizations’ and making certain findings required by the statute. The second topic is expanding agency discretion to process applications for solar and wind energy generation rights-of-way inside designated leasing areas (DLAs). In addition to these two main topics, this final rule makes technical changes, corrections, and clarifications to the regulations. This final rule will update the BLM’s procedures governing the BLM’s administration of rights-of-way issued under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), including for solar and wind energy applications and development authorizations.” The rule was effective July 1, 2024. [Read more.](#)

### **BLM Gunnison Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments – Colorado; Utah.**

On July 3, the BLM announced it “is taking an important step to conserve the federally protected Gunnison sage-grouse by proposing amendments to 11 resource management plans in Colorado and Utah.” (See *Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus minimus), Colorado and Utah*; [89 Fed. Reg. 55655](#)). According to the announcement, “The Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the management of habitat for eight Gunnison sage-grouse populations on BLM-managed public lands across southwest Colorado and southeast Utah.” Further, “The BLM evaluated 11 plans covering 7.6 million acres of public land and 18 million acres of federal mineral estate to identify management actions with potential to impact Gunnison sage-grouse populations and habitat. The proposed amendment lays out a potential approach for addressing the habitat and conservation needs of the Gunnison sage-grouse, with actions such as limiting disturbance at leks or during mating season.” The announcement opens up a public protest period that closes August 5, 2024. [Read more.](#)

### **Biden Administration Announces Renewable Energy Projects Funding.**

As reported by *The Hill* on June 26, the Biden administration “announced \$375 million in funding for renewable energy projects, predominantly through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The funding, announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, includes \$275 million through the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program, an IRA program devoted to renewable electrification in rural areas. The funds will go to communities in Alaska, Arizona, Kentucky and Nebraska. The two largest awards will go to battery energy storage systems in Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Soldotna Substation in Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula, both of which will receive \$100 million.” [Read more details about the funding programs here.](#) Secretary Vilsack said, “We are excited to partner with hundreds more family farms and small businesses as well as rural electric cooperatives and local clean energy developers to address the impacts of climate change, grow the economy and keep rural communities throughout the country strong and resilient.” [Read more.](#)

### **EPA to Review Texas Oversight of Injection Wells.**

As reported on June 24, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “is set to review Texas’ oversight of injection wells following increasing concerns from environmental groups.” Environmental groups have challenged the state’s primacy over the wells alleging that “the Texas Railroad Commission may not be meeting federal standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.” [Read more.](#) The groups that filed the petition with the EPA “raised concerns that there is no recourse from the RRC when they get reports of poorly managed class II wells and that the regulator has not examined the root causes of well leaks and blowouts or open well permitting decisions to the public.” One of the groups, Commission Shift, said, “We believe that a rigorous and transparent evaluation by the EPA will ultimately lead to stronger protections for our water resources and greater accountability for regulatory practices.” As reported by *Reuters*, a spokesperson for the Railroad Commission said, “that it has not yet been contacted by the EPA and stood by its track record,” saying, “The RRC has a long-standing history of regulating underground injection that is protective of the environment and public safety.” [Read more.](#)

### **FEDERAL – Judicial**

**Chevron Doctrine Overturned – U.S. Supreme Court.** (Update to 6/26/23 Report) On June 28, in [Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo](#) (Case No. 22-451), the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a long-standing administrative law precedent that gave agencies across the federal government “leeway to interpret ambiguous laws through rulemaking,” known as the *Chevron* Doctrine for a 1984 U.S. Supreme Court decision that set that long-standing precedent of deference to federal agencies even where Congress failed to provide specific regulatory authority. As provided by law firm Bricker Graydon, “For 40 years, the federal courts have deferred to the statutory construction adopted by administrative agencies where an authorizing statute was either ambiguous or left a gap that required further interpretation. In such cases, who should resolve the ambiguity? A judge who lacks subject matter expertise? Or the agency

that Congress charged with administering the statute? In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, that it should usually be the agency, subject to the bounds of reasonableness, who would make these decisions. Known as ‘Chevron deference,’ courts have deferred to the interpretive guidance of administrative agencies to create and enforce regulatory efforts in every phase of American life, including health care, workplace safety, financial markets, international trade, and national security, to name a few.” [Read more.](#) The opinion is expected to have wide-reaching effects – although the court was clear to note that it does not impact prior regulations – as it is expected to rein in what many free-market and business groups have criticized over the years as a runaway administrative state acting as a fourth branch of government wielding power and authority never granted to it by Congress. [Read more.](#) The American Petroleum Institute immediately came out in favor of the decision. “We agree with the Court that agency actions must faithfully implement the laws passed by Congress. Today’s decision is a reminder that it’s time for both parties to work together and advance bipartisan, commonsense policies that provide regulatory certainty and secure an affordable, reliable energy future.” [Read more.](#) The American Exploration & Production Council also lauded the opinion saying, “The ruling is viewed as a significant victory for conservatives and business groups seeking to curb the power of executive branch overreach.” And Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian also weighed in saying, “This is huge for Texas and other fossil fuel producing states, who must provide reliable energy to Americans and the world. Radical environmentalist administrations, like President Biden’s, hand over the ‘keys to the kingdom’ to federal agencies when Congress doesn’t give them the policies they want. I look forward to thoughtful judges dismantling many of the radical ‘green’ policies pushed by this administration that inhibit our domestic oil and gas production.” [Read more.](#) This landmark decision arose from a challenge by fisherman involving National Marine Fisheries Service regulations that required certain fishing companies to pay for federal monitors aboard their vessels. [Read more.](#) For a

deeper dive into the *Loper* case and its implications, you may access additional legal articles [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

#### **EPA Ozone Emissions Rule – U.S. Supreme Court.**

On June 27, in [Ohio v. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (Case No. 23A349), the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily halted a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule that limits interstate pollution. As reported by *Reuters*, “The 5-4 decision granted requests by Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia, as well as U.S. Steel Corp., pipeline operator Kinder Morgan and industry groups, to halt enforcement of the EPA’s ‘Good Neighbor’ plan restricting ozone pollution from upwind states, while they contest the rule’s legality in a lower court.” [Read more](#). In short, the EPA rule, issued in March 2023, was intended “to target gases that form ozone, a key component of smog, from power plants and other industrial sources in 23 upwind states whose own plans did not satisfy the ‘Good Neighbor’ provision of the Clean Air Act anti-pollution law, requiring steps to reduce pollution that drifts into states downwind.” [Access a detailed EPA summary of the rule as well as fact sheets and other resources here](#). In the current case, the Supreme Court wrote, “EPA’s plan rested on an assumption that all the upwind States would adopt emissions-reduction measures up to a uniform level of costs to the point of diminishing returns. Commenters posed their concerns that if upwind States fell out of the planned FIP [Federal Implementation Plan], the point at which emissions-control measures maximize cost-effective downwind air quality improvements might shift. To this question, EPA offered no reasoned response. As a result, the applicants are likely to prevail on their argument that EPA’s final rule was not ‘reasonably explained.’” Legal proceedings will now continue in a lower court following the Supreme Court’s granting of a stay in favor of the parties challenging the EPA rule. We will continue to keep AAPL members informed as the case proceeds. [Read more](#).

**Domestic Energy Producers Alliance’s Files Petition Against the SEC Climate Disclosure Rule.** (*Update to 6/10/24 and 3/18/24 Reports*) On June 26, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) announced that

their petition against the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) new climate disclosure rule has received support “by 17 U.S. Senators and 18 U.S. Representatives” requesting that a federal court vacate the new rule. [Read the lawmakers’ amicus brief here](#). “DEPA is challenging the SEC’s new Climate Rule, which mandates publicly traded companies to disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data. This rule, finalized in March, represents the first instance where the SEC has required companies to submit climate-related information. Multiple lawsuits are currently pending in the Eighth Circuit, including DEPA’s petition seeking review of the regulations. The amicus brief argues that the Climate Rule imposes undue burdens on publicly traded companies, ultimately harming investors. It emphasizes the institutional interest of Congress in retaining its power to enact legislation governing national securities markets and climate policy.” [Read more](#).

#### **Biden Administration LNG Export Pause – Louisiana.**

On July 1, a Louisiana federal court halted the Biden administration’s LNG export pause. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana wrote in [Louisiana v. Biden](#) (Case No. 2:24-CV-00406) that the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) export pause would be “stayed in its entirety, effective immediately.” For background, in March 2024, “Republican-led states including Texas, Louisiana and Florida” sued the administration, “arguing the policy would harm the economy and undermine efforts to supply foreign allies in Europe with steady supplies of LNG as the region seeks to wean itself off piped gas from Russia.” [Read more](#). As reported, “In January, the administration halted reviews of new LNG export applications to non-free-trade-agreement countries, saying it needed to review how to account for climate risks of projects before approving exports. The pause was praised by environmentalists who had been critical of President Biden’s record on fossil fuels. Monday’s court ruling does not force DOE to now approve LNG applications, but it does require the department to restart the process of considering them.” [Read more](#).

## STATE – Legislative

**Well Setbacks – California.** To update our reporting throughout 2022-2023, on June 28, it was announced that an oil and gas industry referendum to stop a 2022 well setback bill, [SB 1137](#), from taking effect was withdrawn by the referendum sponsors. That bill created well setbacks in newly created “health protection zones” that “bans new oil wells within 3,200 feet of schools, homes and hospitals and requires pollution controls for existing oil wells within 3,200 feet of these zones.” The bill never took effect due to the filing of the referendum. The referendum sponsor, the California Independent Petroleum Association, said instead of putting the ballot measure to voters in November it will seek to stop the bill from taking effect through the courts. Jonathan Gregory, the association’s president and CEO of oil and gas company RMX Resources said, “supporters of the energy shutdown can make unfounded claims in the press and in paid advertisements, but they can’t make those claims in court without evidence.” [Read more.](#)

**For all 580+ bills AAPL is currently monitoring and tracking for members, please see the continuously updated member-exclusive AAPL Governmental Affairs Bill Tracking Summary spreadsheet, available through the AAPLConnect LANDNEWS and Governmental Affairs Network member forums [here](#) or on the AAPL website [here](#).**

## STATE – Regulatory

**Energy and Carbon Management Commission Deep Geothermal Rulemaking – Colorado.** (*Update to 5/28/24 Report*) On June 24, the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) announced an update to their Deep Geothermal Rulemaking process. Originally, the ECMC filed a notice of rulemaking for a hearing before the Commission to begin on July 29, 2024. The ECMC moved to continue this matter to begin on August 5, 2024. The public can submit comments by July 22, 2024, at 7pm. [Access the ECMC public comment form here.](#) For background, on May 17, the ECMC announced it will be considering additions and amendments to

Commission rules as part of its Deep Geothermal rulemaking. As provided, “The proposed Deep Geothermal rules establish a permitting structure for the review and authorization of deep geothermal wells and surface locations.” [Access the proposed rule here.](#) You may also [read a detailed summary of the proposed rulemaking here.](#)

**Carbon Management Community Listening Sessions – Colorado.** On June 26, the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) announced that the ECMC and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) will be “co-hosting community listening sessions for Coloradans to: Learn more about carbon management’s role in meeting Colorado’s climate goals; Provide feedback about the initial phases of; The State’s Carbon Management Roadmap; [and] ECMC’s upcoming Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) rulemaking on Class VI Wells draft rules.” According to the ECMC, in-person meetings will be held in Durango, Pueblo and Firestone, as well as one virtual meeting. “Each meeting will include: Carbon Management Overview: Anna Littlefield, Colorado School of Mines; Presentation on Carbon Management Roadmap: Quinn Antus, CEO, and Mark Fry, Great Plains Institute; Presentation on Class VI Wells Draft Rules: Mark Seeley, ECMC; [and] Community discussions, questions and feedback.” The listening sessions will be held from July 16-18, 2024. [Access the ECMC website for more information on attending.](#)

**DEP Permitting Update – Pennsylvania.** On June 29, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced it “is proposing to reissue the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit for Earth Disturbance Associated with Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Processing or Treatment Operations or Transmission Facilities (ESCGP-4). This general permit is issued under the authority of the Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. §§ 691.1—691.1001). The Department is not proposing significant changes in ESCGP-4 from ESCGP-3 at this time. The current ESCGP-3 is scheduled to expire at midnight on January 6, 2025.” [Read more.](#) The public comment period is open through July 29, 2024. [Read more.](#)

### **Railroad Commission Approves 2025 Oil and Gas Monitoring and Enforcement Plan – Texas.**

*(Update to 4/1/24 Report)* To follow up our earlier coverage where we provided AAPL members with an opportunity to submit comments, on June 27, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) announced they “approved the agency’s Fiscal Year 2025 Oil and Gas Monitoring and Enforcement Plan which includes added information to provide the public further insight on the agency’s work to protect the environment and Texans. The annual plans define the RRC’s strategic priorities for monitoring oil and gas activities and enforcing regulations across the state. They include the agency’s extensive field operations activities such as well inspections, orphaned well pluggings, and site remediations. New to this year’s plan is information related to technical permitting, and RRC monitoring and enforcement activities performed by the Oil and Gas Division’s Technical Permitting and Administrative Compliance Units. One example is the compliance team established by the division in 2023 to focus on post-permitting compliance at surface waste management facilities regulated by the Environmental Permits Section. Also, for the first time, the RRC sought public feedback this year prior to developing the plan. Some of that input was used to develop priorities for monitoring and enforcement efforts in the plan, including providing more comprehensive flaring data, and evaluating difference methods to reduce orphaned wells older than 20 years.” [Read more.](#)

### **Railroad Commission Announces LoneSTAR Portal Availability for Operators – Texas.**

On July 1, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) announced it “has launched the Railroad Commission State Tracking and Reporting (LoneSTAR) portal allowing operators online filing and record viewing for oil and gas functions. The first release of LoneSTAR includes: Processes associated with filing a new, renewal, and record-only Form P-5, Organization Report, to become an oil and gas operator or pipeline operator under the jurisdiction of the RRC; Form W-3C, Certification of Surface Equipment Removal for an Inactive Well; and Form W-3X, Extension of Deadline for Plugging an Inactive Well. Future releases will include other oil and gas and environmental permitting processes.” [Read more.](#) Read more [about the RRC LoneSTAR project here.](#)

### **Railroad Commission Opposition to Biden Administration’s Ban on LNG Exports – Texas.**

On June 25, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) announced that “following recent reports that the Biden Administration’s federal moratorium on new liquified natural gas (LNG) export plants is prohibiting Ukraine from purchasing American LNG, Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian slammed the administration’s policy and called on the president to rescind the ban.” RRC Commissioner Christian said, “At a time when our allies need U.S. energy the most, President Biden is making it harder for them to access it. Ukraine’s deal for American LNG could be the leverage the West needs to gain an upper hand on Putin by ending Europe’s reliance on Russian energy and depriving Putin of his primary revenue source to fund his unjust war. American fossil fuels can once again be the ‘hope of the free world’ – but only if Biden will let it.” [Read more.](#)

### **Railroad Commission Challenges Federal Dune Sagebrush Lizard Endangered Species Listing -- Texas.**

*(Update to 5/28/24 Report)* On July 1, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) announced that regarding the recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listing of the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as an endangered species, “The listing’s impact on the most vital oil producing region in the nation – the Permian Basin – could be devastating, and RRC commissioners are taking steps to prevent that.” As such, “At their recent open meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to request the Texas Attorney General’s office challenge the ruling.” [Read more.](#) For background, on May 17, the Interior Department’s FWS announced it is “listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The decision comes after a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information, a 90-day public comment period, and a public hearing and information session. The designation of critical habitat was found to be prudent but not determinable at this time. The Service has up to one year from the time of listing to propose critical habitat.” [Read the announcement here.](#) The final rule was effective June 20, 2024. (See also, *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard*; [89 Fed. Reg. 43748](#)).

At the time, RRC Commissioner Wayne Christian criticized the announcement saying, “This doesn’t have a thing to do with ‘saving lizards’; it’s about shutting down U.S. oil and gas production to win political brownie points, which will only increase inflation and jeopardize billions of lives globally. It doesn’t matter if it’s a lizard, a chicken, a whale, or a unicorn, radical environmentalists won’t be satisfied until we all get our energy from firewood and are living in a cave again. To them, this is about ending fossil fuels to ‘better humanity’, which is ironic given they allow mankind to flourish by powering 80% of the globe’s energy, manufacturing 96% of consumer products, and helping to feed more than half the planet. Right now, the world needs more energy and more Texas oil and gas, and all this does is drive up prices and make it harder on consumers.” [Read more.](#)

## STATE – Judicial

**Injection Well Permitting – Ohio.** On June 25, the Ohio Court of Appeals, Tenth District, ruled in favor of Omni Energy Group, an oil and gas operator, by finding that a lower court applied the wrong legal standard in ruling against the operator regarding injection well permitting by Eric Vendel, Chief, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. In *Omni Energy Group, LLC v. Vendel* (Case No. 2024-Ohio-2439), the court held, “In short, it is clear from the face of the trial court’s order that it applied the wrong standard of review. Because the trial court did not apply the proper legal standard set forth in R.C.119.12, its order must be reversed and the matter remanded to the trial court for review under the proper standard.” As reported by *Bloomberg Law*, “the appeals court, in saying Omni deserves another chance to prove its case, also found that the trial judge was mistaken when she denied the company’s request to consider additional evidence and for a hearing on the merits of Vendel’s decision.” [Read more.](#)

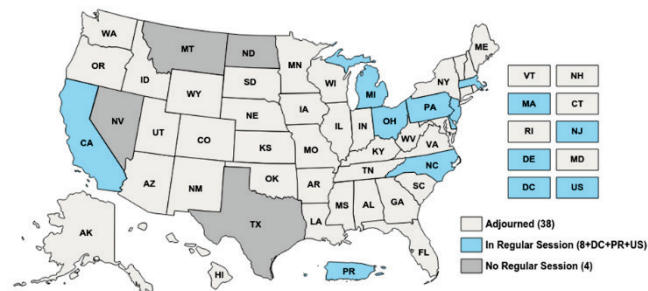
## INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **DEPA files U.S. Supreme Court petition challenging California’s EV mandate.** On July 3, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA)

announced that they filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court, along with 15 energy, agriculture, and biofuel groups, challenging the “Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) decision to grant a waiver to California for its 2021-2025 electric vehicle mandate.” According to the DEPA, they “challenge the EPA’s authority to grant California the unprecedented power to regulate vehicle greenhouse gas emissions and enforce EV mandates. This delegation of power not only disrupts the uniformity of national vehicle standards but also sets a concerning precedent for state-by-state environmental regulation. We believe that such significant regulatory decisions should rest with Congress, ensuring a balanced and democratic approach to environmental policy.” [Read more.](#)

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

### States in Session



**Session Notes:** California, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are in regular session. The U.S. Congress is also in session.

**Arizona** adjourned their 2024 legislative session on June 15.

**Arkansas** adjourned its special session on June 19 after passing several tax bills. According to [KARK](#), legislation passed during the session lowered the state’s income tax from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent while also lowering the corporate tax rate and increased tax credits for homeowners. Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders praised the legislation while again indicating her intentions to eventually eliminate the state’s income tax.

**Nebraska** Republican Gov. Jim Pillen announced his plans to call a special session on July 25 to address property tax relief. According to the [Nebraska Examiner](#), Governor Pillen announced his intentions to bring the legislature together for a special session over the summer to reduce property tax obligations for residents after a previous plan to reduce property taxes failed to pass during the regular session.

**Utah** adjourned its special session on June 19 after addressing power plant concerns. According to [Fox 13](#), the one-day session resulted in the passage of a bill that would allow the state to take control of a local coal power plant before it is able to execute a planned switch over to natural gas and hydrogen production.

**Signing Deadlines** (by date): **Oklahoma** Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt had until June 14 to act on legislation or it was pocket vetoed. **Arizona** Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs had until June 27 to act on legislation or it became law without signature. **Missouri** Republican Gov. Mike Parson had until July 1 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Alaska** Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy has 20 days from presentment, excluding Sundays, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Illinois** Democratic Gov J.B. Pritzker has 60 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature.

The following states are currently holding interim committee hearings or studies: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri House](#) and [Senate](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), the **New York Assembly**, [North Dakota](#), [Oregon](#), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), the **Texas House**, [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#).

The following states are currently posting 2024 bill drafts, pre-files and interim studies: [Alabama](#), [Nebraska](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma](#) and [Utah](#). ■

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