

Impacts of HR 1 on Renewable Energy and Environmental Justice

July 24, 2025



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RECORDING

The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.

Questions

Please submit your questions in the Q/A box.

Chat

Please remember to be respectful and civil in all chat interactions.

Prayer for our Harmony with Mary, Mother of all Creation

~Leanne Jablonski FMI, Director, Marianist Environmental Education Center

(Inspired by Rev 12:6, 14, 16; 1/23/06 & 7/18)

Mary, Mother of all creation
We, your family,
Desire to be your living presence anew

Form us as your rain
Quenching parched souls with hope

Form us as your fire
Illuminating indifferent hearts with faith

Form us as your wind
Refreshing dusty minds with wisdom

Form us as your soil
Embracing all with compassion

In all these ways of life
Form us, so that

Your seeds of justice sown deep within us will flourish
Bearing abundant fruit
Of peace and integrity

Joined together with all creation
We will once again sing in harmony

Prayer will be part of upcoming 2025 Feast of St. Francis resource: "[Spreading Seeds of Peace and Hope for Creation](#)"



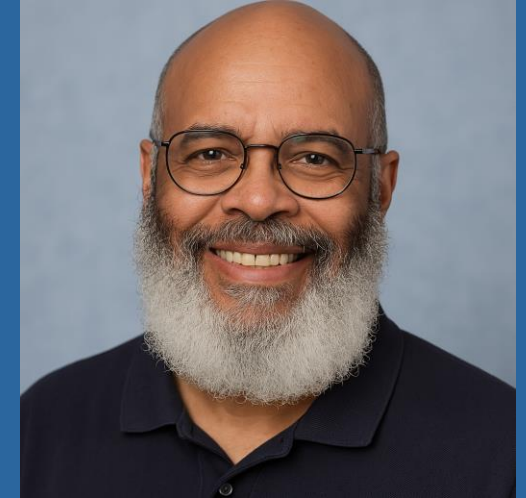
Impacts of HR 1 on Renewable Energy and Environmental Justice



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Host - Faith & Sustainability Podcast

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant

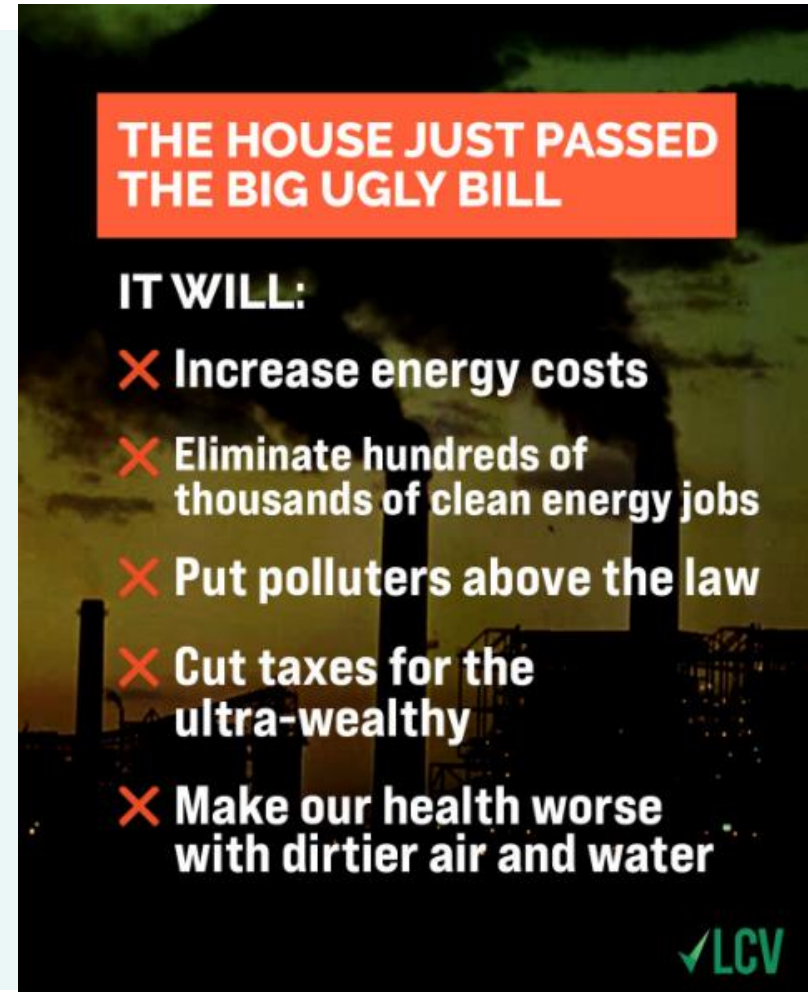




Opening – What’s at Stake?: From Laudato Si’ to Legislative Reality

In a nutshell

- A budget reconciliation bill narrowly passed by Congress in July 2025
- Marketed as a fiscal discipline and energy security bill
- In reality: a sweeping rollback of climate and environmental progress
- “The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are one” – Pope Francis
- As people of faith, we are called to protect creation and future generations.
- HR 1 is not just a policy bill- it’s a step backward from our moral and ecological commitments.





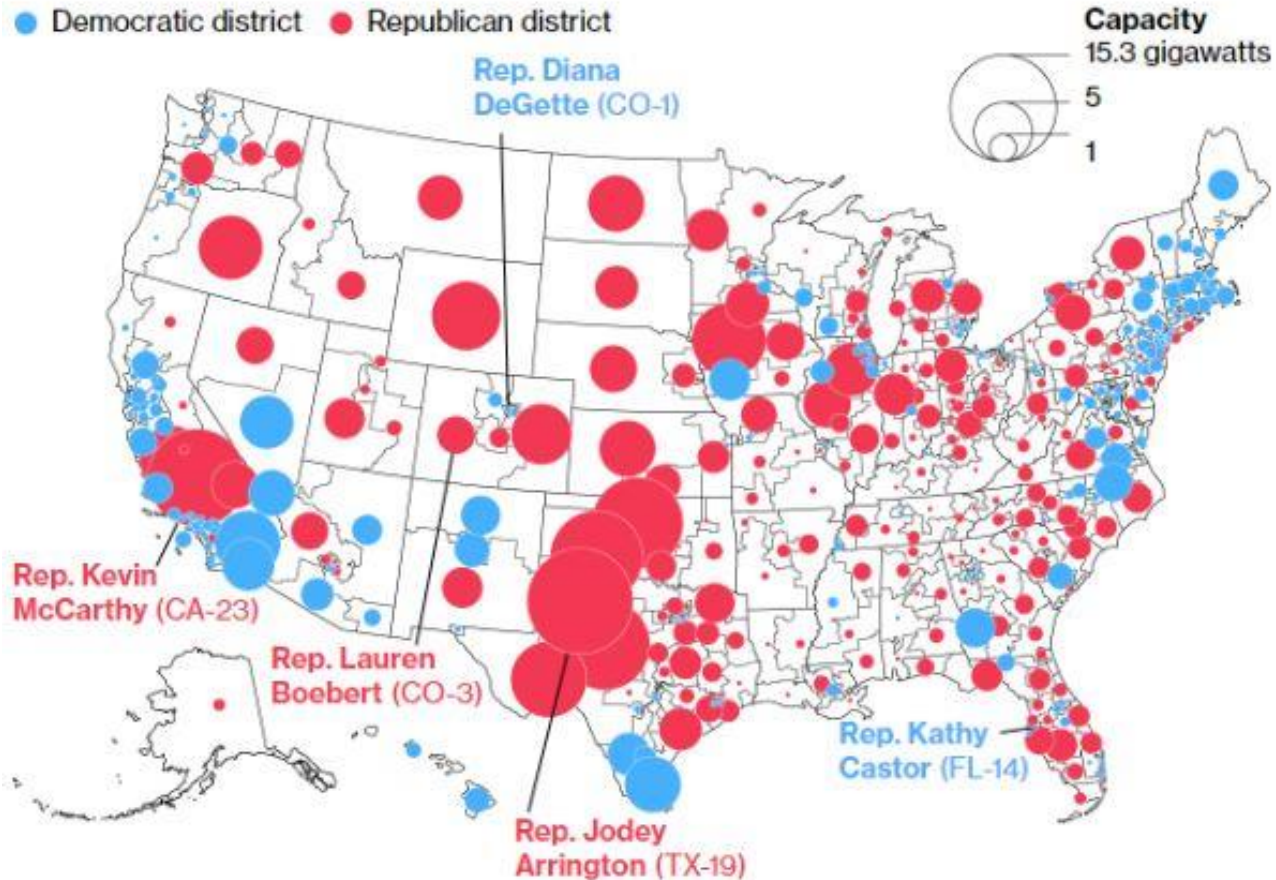
Climate and Environmental Rollbacks in the OBBB

- The bill takes away over **\$80 billion** in clean energy support that was passed in the Inflation Reduction Act. That includes:
 - **Incentives for clean electricity** like solar and wind
 - **Support for clean energy manufacturing** and clean hydrogen
 - **Tax credits to expand electric vehicle charging stations**
- It also **slashes key programs that protect our air and water**, including:
 - The **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**, which helps communities cut pollution
 - **Programs to reduce diesel pollution** and clean up **polluted ports**
 - All **Environmental Justice Grants**, which support communities most impacted by pollution
- It even **takes back \$3 billion in EPA funding** that was already promised to help these communities



Mapping Green America

Republican districts, particularly in the Midwest, dominate in terms of US clean technology projects



Clean Energy Projects Mapped

- 80% of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy programs and incentives went to Republican-held districts

How does the OBBB affect you?



Who Gets Hurt?

- **Low-income communities** lose access to clean air, energy cost relief, and clean water investments
- **Workers and manufacturers** face job losses in renewables, EVs, clean hydrogen, and supply chain
- **Communities of color and rural areas** left behind in just transition efforts
- Repeals clean energy tax credits that fuel Catholic solar projects
- Makes it harder for faith institutions to afford or expand solar installations
- Slows but does NOT stop the clean energy transition



Who Benefits?

- **Fossil fuel corporations**
 - New subsidies and permitting favors
 - Legal shields for polluting projects
- **Polluters and foreign-owned mining companies**
 - Loopholes expanded, accountability reduced





A Faithful Response: NETWORK's Advocacy

Our work:

- Mobilizing faith-based voices to urge reversal of IRA repeals
- Engaging lawmakers across parties to protect clean energy investments
- Organizing with interfaith coalitions to uplift the moral stakes: "Care for Creation, Care for Community"





What Comes Next – Legislative Priorities

Defensive Work:

- Fight to restore IRA energy tax credits through tax extenders debate
- Protect EPA authorities and re-fund EJ programs via appropriations
- Prevent further rollbacks of what remains of the IRA clean energy law

Proactive Work:

- Advance the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act
- Support the Clean Energy Transmission Act
- Push for stronger rural and environmental justice investments in the next Farm Bill or standalones
- Urge lawmakers to approach permitting and mining reform in ways that help communities and the environment



Issue Areas to Watch (Q3–Q4 2025)

- Clean energy permitting reform and transmission buildout
- Justice40 and environmental justice implementation threats
- Mining reform and domestic sourcing policies
- Climate resilience funding in appropriations
- Election-year greenwashing and fossil fuel expansion bills



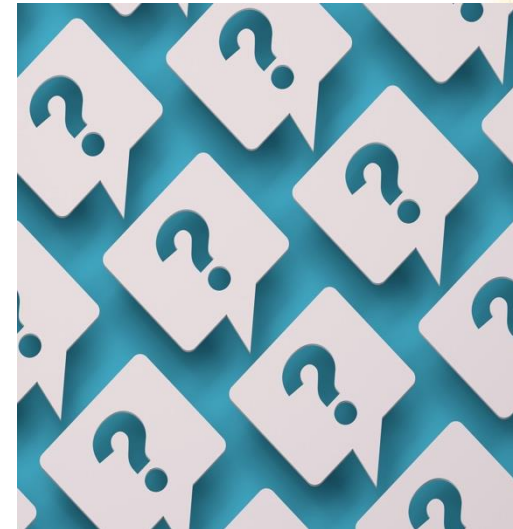
Final Thoughts

The OBBB was a setback—but not the end

We are rooted in hope and solidarity

Join us in defending creation and protecting those most harmed

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A group photo of several people, including men and women of various ages, smiling and holding NETWORK materials. The photo is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Thank You

www.networklobby.org



info@networklobby.org

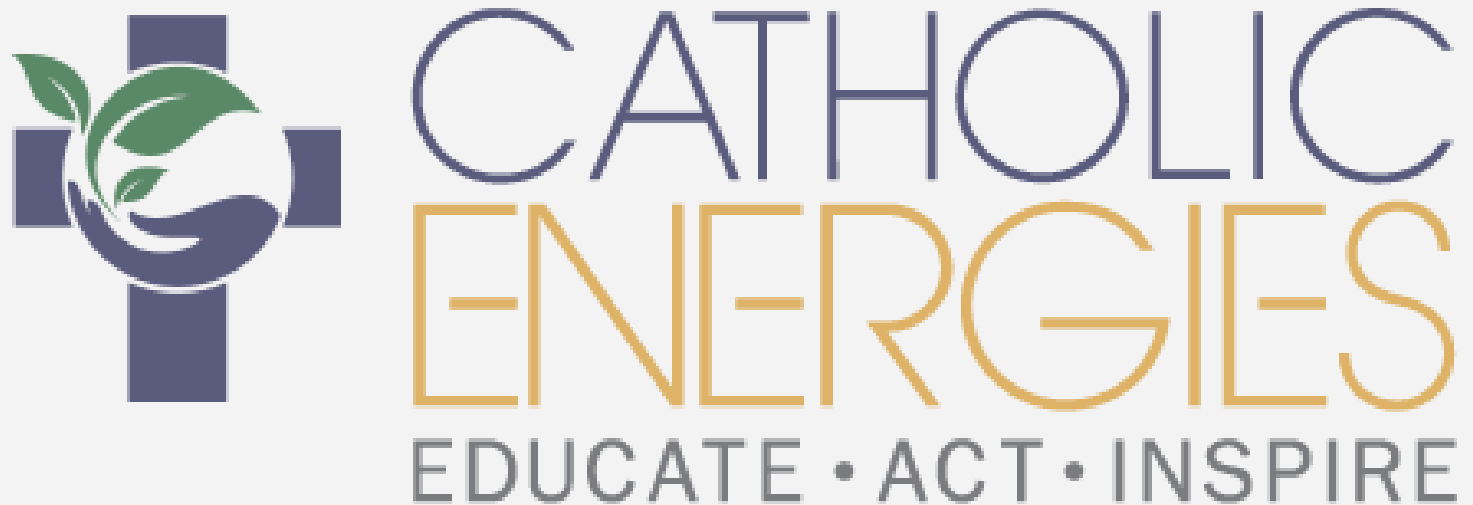


@network_lobby

www.networkadvocates.org



@networkLobby



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“We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay”.

–Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Catholic Energies: Introduction

A program of the Catholic Climate Covenant

Reduce energy waste in Catholic facilities
to enable more resources to go towards
mission-related activities

Provide education & resources to engage
Catholics to live their faith authentically,
including our common call to be stewards of
God's creation and to seek justice for our
vulnerable sisters and brothers



OBBB Impacts on Commercial Solar

- Ends Investment Tax Credit (ITC)/Direct Pay in 2027 instead of 2032 – loss of 30%+ rebate
- Changes to Safe Harbor are pending
- Implements new Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) restrictions beginning in 2026
- Storage ITC/Direct Pay extended with phase out beginning in 2033
- Adjusted Domestic Content requirements to earn ITC/Direct Pay
- No impacts to:
 - Transferability of ITC/Direct Pay
 - ITC/Direct Pay adders – Energy Community, Low Income, or Domestic Content

ITC/Direct Pay Phase Out

BBB/Reconciliation Bill accelerated the ITC/Direct Pay phase out – currently ends in 2027 with three dates of note until then:

- **MOST SAFE** – Projects that “Begin Construction” by 12/31/25 will have up to four years to finish and are not subject to Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) restrictions (see below).
- **LESS SAFE** – Projects that “Begin Construction” after 12/31/25 but by 7/4/26 will have up to four years to finish but will have to abide by FEOC restrictions. This new law makes sourcing equipment more difficult and could increase the project cost.
- **LEAST SAFE** – Projects that “Begin Construction” after 7/4/26 must be completed by 12/31/27 to receive the Direct Payment and comply with FEOC.
- **Impact: Projects that do not move quickly will likely lose out on the ITC/Direct Pay. Additional impact is loss of state incentives as project development accelerates. Once FEOC kicks in, unknown impacts.**

Safe Harbor Changes

- Current law allows for two paths to safe harbor ITC/Direct Pay for up to four years
 - Begin actual construction in a calendar year
 - Spend 5% of the project cost in a calendar year
- President signed an Executive Order on July 7 requiring the Treasury Department to review these rules and possibly rewrite them to make safe harbor more difficult
- **Impact: Fewer projects would hit the “Start Construction” milestone and be able to utilize the ITC/Direct Pay reducing the financial returns**

Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC)

- New law aimed at preventing certain foreign entities from benefiting from a US energy project
- Targets:
 - Certain foreign-owned companies
 - Certain foreign-owned investors
 - Anyone who provides material assistance from a FEOC
- Current FEOC: Iran, North Korea, Russia, China
- **Impact: Unknown, but potentially the most impacted part of OBBB. Rules have not been finalized yet.**

Overall Impact for Nonprofit & Catholic Organizations

- “It could have been worse”, but nothing in OBBA should be seen as a positive
- Will make projects more expensive
- 15-50% fewer installations over the next decade, with the percentage increasing drastically after 2027
- Never been a more important time to make quick decisions and proceed with a project if you are considering one

All Is Not Lost & Final Takeaways

- 86% of new electricity generation in 2024 from was renewable energy – the train may have slowed, but it hasn't derailed
- Economic and electricity demand realities aren't going away
 - State power commissions approved a record \$46B in rate increases so far in 2025
 - Electricity demand continues to rapidly increase & the power needs to come from somewhere
- Direct Pay incentive still exists for nonprofits
- Storage is still viable and can help with economics of a combined project
- The industry has adapted and will continue to do so

Follow Up Questions?

- Dan Last, Program Director for Catholic Energies
- dan@mission.energy
- 860-306-3028

Faith Rising—Responding to H.R. 1's Impact on Environmental Justice

Catholic Climate Covenant Webinar | July 24, 2025 Presented by
Leonard Robinson Host of the *Faith & Sustainability Podcast*



Scripture to Ground Us

*“Learn to do good;
seek justice, correct
oppression...” —
Isaiah 1:17*

*“The Lord God took
the man and put him
in the garden of Eden
to till it and keep it.”
— Genesis 2:15*

H.R. 1 Fiscal Impact

PROGRAM	FUNDS RESCINDED	EJ IMPACT
EJ Block Grants	\$2.8 billion	Defunded grassroots initiatives in frontline communities
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$27 billion	Halted clean energy projects led by nonprofits
Climate Monitoring & Pollution Funds	Hundreds of millions	Schools lost tools to track pollution & improve air
EPA EJ Grants (pre-H.R. 1 termination)	Nearly 800 grants	Local resilience work cut off midstream



Breathing in the Cuts—Health Consequences

Environmental Harm = Physical Harm:

- 🖐️ Rise in asthma & lung illness from lost air monitoring
- 📘 Increase in lead, PFAS, & nitrate exposure from stalled water testing
- 🧪 Toxins lingering in communities as clean-up grants vanished
- 🔥 Urban heat exacerbated by defunded cooling initiatives



Faces of Impact—ZIP Codes Under Pressure

Location	Cut Program	Health Fallout
West Oakland, CA	Air Monitoring	Surge in asthma ER admissions
Jackson, MS	Water Infrastructure	Outbreaks of stomach illnesses
El Paso, TX	EJ Youth Grants	Heat-related hospitalization rise
NC Flood Zones	Brownfield Cleanups	Persistent carcinogen exposure

Faith Responds—With Action

What We're Doing:

- 🙏 *Justice Vigils* outdoors and online
- 📜 *Sermons & Liturgy* grounded in creation care
- 📝 *Faith for Justice Pledges* by congregants
- ⚙️ *Eco-Justice Teams* forming in churches, temples, and mosques
- 📞 *Call-ins & Petitions* that center moral urgency



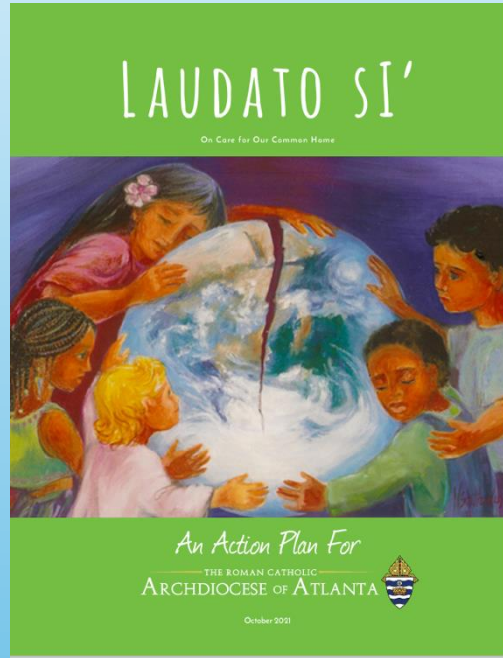
Strategic Advocacy & Resilience

Building What the Bill Cut:

- Local EJ policies & ordinances
- Interfaith partnerships with mayors & councils
- Grassroots fundraising to revive lost initiatives
- Youth-led sustainability projects



Archdiocese of Atlanta



Call to Action

Three Things You Can Do This Week:



Take a Faith for Justice pledge



Call one local official about an EJ ordinance



Start or join an Eco-Justice Team in your community

Closing Words

“We are the ones that we’ve been waiting for!”



Questions?

Leonard Robinson

Host – Faith & Sustainability Podcast

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