

GOP Senators Took Nearly \$8.8M From Oil And Gas, Then Obstructed Biden's Interior Secretary Nominee And Environmental Agenda

SUMMARY: As the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources prepares to consider Deb Haaland as Biden's pick to head the Interior Department, an **Accountable.US** analysis reveals that **10 GOP committee members took over \$1.4 million from the oil and gas industry from 2019 to 2020**, then obstructed the president's Interior Department nominee and environmental agenda. The **committee's GOP members' career combined oil and gas war chest totals nearly \$8.8 million.**

Notably, new filings from the Federal Election Commission reveal **Ranking Member John Barrasso took nearly \$20,000 of his almost \$70,000 total 2020 cycle contributions from the industry during the last quarter of 2020, when he was still expected to chair the ENR committee in a Republican-controlled Senate.** In December, Barrasso appeared on FOX News, saying, **"If you want accountability and not just a rubber stamp for a Joe Biden Cabinet, you need to have people like me as chairman of the energy committee."** He continued, "It's not gonna be a garden party if the Republicans are in the majority; these nominees are going to have to run the gauntlet."

Senator Steve Daines has also been a leading Biden obstructionist, declaring he would block Biden's nominee for Interior Secretary unless she met his demands on behalf of the oil and gas industry. On Inauguration Day, Daines announced dual legislation to undercut first-day executive actions on the Keystone XL Pipeline and Paris Climate Accords; four GOP members of the ENR committee were original co-sponsors on at least one of the bills. **Overall, all 10 Republican members of the Senate ENR committee have supported measures to block Biden's climate agenda, introducing at least 34 amendments to undercut Biden's environmental agenda on everything from the Paris Climate Agreement to permitting to oil leasing.**

Nine of 10 GOP senators on the ENR committee also co-sponsored legislation to block Biden's executive action pausing new leases for oil and gas drilling around the same time at least one industry group, **Western Energy Alliance**, began litigating against Biden's policy. Barrasso and **Senator Lisa Murkowski** were also featured speakers for oil and gas lobbying groups —**Independent Petroleum Association of America** and **National Ocean Industries Association**, respectively—during the 2020 cycle.

Republican Senators On Committee Overseeing Confirmation Of Biden's Interior Secretary Took Nearly \$8.8M From Oil And Gas Industry, Then Obstructed Confirmation Process And Biden Environmental Agenda.

Republican Members Of Senate Energy And Natural Resources Committee, Which Has Jurisdiction Over Confirmation Of Interior Secretary, Took Nearly \$8.8M From Oil And Gas Industry, Including Over \$1.4M During 2020 Cycle.

10 GOP Members Of Senate Energy And Natural Resources (ENR) Committee Collectively Took Nearly \$8.8 Million From Oil And Gas Industry, Including Over \$1.4 Million During 2020 Cycle.

SENATOR	2020 CYCLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OIL & GAS	CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OIL & GAS
Bill Cassidy	\$306,127	\$1,681,447
Lisa Murkowski	\$46,250	\$1,530,644
James Lankford	\$19,400	\$1,266,270
Steve Daines	\$549,567	\$1,179,260
John Barrasso	\$68,137	\$1,169,103
John Hoeven	\$20,367	\$690,170
Mike Lee	\$8,755	\$366,400
Cindy Hyde-Smith	\$155,988	\$357,439
Jim Risch	\$100,097	\$326,547
Roger Marshall	\$162,151	\$209,233
TOTAL	\$1,436,839	\$8,776,513

NOTE: "2020 cycle" is defined as calendar years 2019 and 2020.

[Center for Responsive Politics, Oil & Gas, 2020 cycle, accessed [2/16/21](#);

Center for Responsive Politics, Oil & Gas, All cycles, accessed [2/16/21](#)]

Energy And Natural Resources Committee Has Jurisdiction Over Secretary Of Interior Nominee Confirmation Process. "Senator Manchin looks forward to meeting with Congresswoman Haaland and having her appear before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as the first Native American nominee to be Secretary of the Interior," said Sam Runyon, Manchin's spokesperson. 'He will carefully examine her record and qualifications to serve our country.'" [E&E News, [12/18/20](#)]

Ranking Member John Barrasso Took Nearly One-Third Of His Total 2020 Oil And Gas Industry PAC Contributions During Last Quarter Of 2020 As He Was Poised To Become Chair Of ENR, Then Pledged To Stall Biden Environmental Nominees.

October To December 2020: Expected To Be ENR Committee Chair, Barrasso Took \$19,500 From Oil And Gas PACs, Out Of \$68,137 Total For 2020 Cycle.

2019-2020: Barrasso Took \$68,137 Total From Oil And Gas Industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, Oil & Gas, accessed [2/16/21](#)]

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Barrasso Took \$19,500 From Oil And Gas Industry PACs. See more details in the table below. [Federal Election Commission, Friends of John Barrasso, Year-End Report, [1/21/21](#)]

Nov. 2020: Barrasso Was Poised To Be Chair Of ENR Committee If Republicans Maintained Senate Control. "Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said Wednesday he intends to assume the top spot on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the next Congress, a shift with cascading repercussions on energy, environment and transportation issues." [Roll Call, [11/18/20](#)]

- **Roll Call HEADLINE: "Barrasso Stakes Claim To Chair Energy And Natural Resources"** [Roll Call, [11/18/20](#)]
- **"Barrasso Will Remain A Key Player On Public Lands, Energy Research, Carbon Capture And Mining No Matter If He The Committee Chairman Or Its Ranking Member."** [Roll Call, [11/18/20](#)]
- **Barrasso Was Ranking Member Of Environment And Natural Resource Committee.** [U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Members, accessed [2/12/20](#)]

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	CONTRIBUTION TO BARRASSO
Black Hills Corporation PAC	10/9/20	\$2,000
BP North America Employee PAC	10/9/20	\$2,000
Ovintiv USA PAC	10/20/20	\$2,500
PG&E Energy PAC	10/20/20	\$1,000
POWER PAC/American Public Power Assn	10/20/20	\$1,000
Marathon Oil Company Employees PAC/MEPAC	10/30/20	\$1,000
TENASKA Employee PAC	10/30/20	\$1,000
Salt River Project PAC	11/16/20	\$1,000
PG&E Energy PAC	12/6/20	\$5,000
Calpine PAC	12/6/20	\$1,000
Chevron Employees/CEPAC	12/6/20	\$1,000
TransCanada USA Services, Inc. PAC	12/6/20	\$1,000
TOTAL		\$19,500

[Federal Election Commission, Friends of John Barrasso, Year-End Report, [1/21/21](#)]

December 2020: Barrasso Pledged To Obstruct Biden Energy Nominees, Declaring, “If You Want Accountability And Not Just A Rubber Stamp For A Joe Biden Cabinet, You Need To Have People Like Me As Chairman,” And That “These Nominees Are Going To Have To Run The Gauntlet.”

December 2020: Asked If He Would “Promise Swift Confirmation” Of Biden’s Cabinet, Barrasso Said Biden’s Cabinet “Didn’t Sit Really Well In Wyoming.” WALLACE: “Senator, are you going to play the Democrats’ game of delay; what they did to Donald Trump in 2017? Or can you promise swift confirmation of [Biden’s] nominees? And are there any names of the names you’ve heard so far that you consider dead on arrival? BARRASSO: “Well, a couple of things. It looks like the Biden Cabinet would be a third term of the Obama administration, and that didn’t sit really well in Wyoming.” [FOX News, [12/20/20](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Barrasso: “If You Want Accountability And Not Just A Rubber Stamp For A Joe Biden Cabinet, You Need To Have People Like Me As Chairman Of The Energy Committee.”** BARRASSO: “We have a role to advise and consent on these nominees, which is why the election coming up in Georgia is so critical in the control of the Senate, why I wanna make sure that David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler get elected there. If you want accountability and not just a rubber stamp for a Joe Biden Cabinet, you need to have people like me as chairman of the energy committee.” [FOX News, [12/20/20](#)] (VIDEO)
- **Barrasso: “It’s Not Gonna Be A Garden Party If The Republicans Are In The Majority; These Nominees Are Going To Have To Run The Gauntlet.”** “So we’ll have hearings, ask the tough questions, but we are not gonna forget what happened with President Trump’s administration, and the delayed process that went through it. So it’s not gonna be a garden party, if the Republicans are in the majority; these nominees are going to have to run the gauntlet.” [FOX News, [12/20/20](#)] (VIDEO)

Wyoming Public Media, December 2020 HEADLINE: “Sen. Barrasso Plans To Push Back On Biden Nominations” [Wyoming Public Media, [12/22/20](#)]

2019-2020: Barrasso And Murkowski Were Featured Speakers For Oil & Gas Lobbying Groups.

November 2019: Independent Petroleum Association Of America Featured Barrasso As “Special Guest” With Lobbyist Moderator At Its 90th Annual Meeting. More details can be found in the picture below.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm
Kennedy Ballroom

A View From Capitol Hill

MODERATOR

Dan Naatz, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Political Affairs, IPAA

SPECIAL GUEST

U.S. Senator John Barrasso R-WY

Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee











Senator John Barrasso was sworn in to the United States Senate in 2007 having represented the people of Natrona County in the Wyoming State Senate from 2003-2007. In November 2018, Barrasso was reelected to the U.S. Senate with more than 67% of the vote. He is the third-ranking member in the Senate Republican leadership as Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. He serves on committees that directly impact Wyoming's economy, energy interests, public lands, national parks and trade. In addition to other committee assignments, Barrasso is the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

[Independent Petroleum Association of America, Schedule of Events, 2019 IPAA 90th Annual Meeting, accessed [2/16/20](#)]

Fall 2020: National Ocean Industries Association Featured Murkowski As Fall Meeting Speaker. More details can be found in the picture below.

NOIA 2020 Fall Meeting Speakers

 Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska	 Dr. John Fleming, White House	 RDML Tim Gallaudet, NOAA
 Benji Backer, ACC	 Paula Glover, AABE	 Frank Luntz, Pollster
 Danielle Sugarman, BlackRock	 Back to NOIA Fall Meeting Home Page	

[National Ocean Industries Association, NOIA 2020 Fall Meeting Speakers, accessed [2/16/21](#)]

- **NOIA Was “America’s Offshore Energy Industry.”** More details can be found in the picture below.



[National Ocean Industries Association, accessed [2/16/21](#)]

Senate ENR Committee Member Steve Daines Explicitly Indicated He Would Block Haaland For Being Unfriendly To Oil And Gas.

Daines Said He Would “Block” Haaland Unless His Concerns About Her Positions On Green New Deal, Biden’s Oil And Gas Moratorium, And Keystone XL Pipeline Were Addressed.

February 2020: Daines Said He Would Block Haaland’s Confirmation Unless His Demands For Oil And Gas Industry Were Met. DAINES: ““After our conversation, I’m deeply concerned with the Congresswoman’s support on several radical issues that will hurt Montana, our way of life, our jobs and rural America, including her support for the Green New Deal and President Biden’s oil and gas moratorium, as well as her opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. [...] Unless my concerns are addressed, I will block her confirmation.” [Office of Senator Steve Daines, [2/5/21](#)]

- **Daines: “I’m Deeply Concerned With [Haaland’s] ... Support For The Green New Deal And President Biden’s Oil And Gas Moratorium, As Well As Her Opposition To The Keystone XL Pipeline.”** [Office of Senator Steven Daines, [2/5/21](#)]
- **Daines: “Unless My Concerns Are Addressed, I Will Block Her Confirmation.”** [Office of Senator Steven Daines, [2/5/21](#)]
- **Montana Standard HEADLINE: “Daines, Rosendale Oppose Interior Nominee Haaland”** [Montana Standard, [2/6/21](#)]

During “Vote-A-Rama” On Biden’s COVID Relief Package Murkowski And Eight Other GOP Senators On ENR Committee Introduced Total Of At Least 34 Amendments To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda.

Budget Reconciliation Process Was Used In Effort To Pass Biden COVID-19 Relief Deal.

Budget Reconciliation Process Was Being Used As Vehicle For Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan. “The Senate approved a budget bill early Friday that paves the way for passage of President Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, with Vice President Harris casting the tiebreaking vote on the measure that will be key to enacting Biden’s first major legislative initiative. Passage of the budget bill by a 51-to-50 vote came just after 5:30 a.m. Friday, after an all-night Senate session during which senators plowed through dozens of amendments in a chaotic process known as a ‘vote-a-rama.’ Democrats cheered on progress to address the pandemic, while Republicans complained of partisanship and excessive spending.” [Washington Post, [2/8/21](#)]

Barrasso Introduced At Least One Amendment Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Barrasso Introduced SA 644, Point Of Order “Against The U.N. Framework Convention On Climate Change’s Green Climate Fund.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Barrasso introduced SA 644, “against the U.N. framework convention on climate change’s Green Climate Fund.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Daines Introduced Three Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda, Specifically Carbon Tax, Oil Leasing, And Paris Climate Agreement.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Daines Introduced SA 683, “Prohibiting A Carbon Tax.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Daines introduced SA 683, “prohibiting a carbon tax.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Daines Introduced SA 684, Point Of Order “Against Legislation That Would Reduce Royalties From Leasing On Federal Land.”

According to the Republican Policy Committee, Daines introduced SA 684, “POO against legislation that would reduce royalties from leasing on federal land.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Daines Introduced SA 715, A Point Of Order “Against Taxpayer Funding For The Paris Climate Agreement.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Daines introduced SA 715, “POO against taxpayer funding for the Paris Climate Agreement.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Murkowski Introduced At Least Four Amendments To Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Bill Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda, Specifically Federal Land Protection.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Murkowski Introduced An Amendment “Prohibiting Establishment Of Any New Federally Protected Areas In Certain States,” Including States With More Than 30% Of Land And Water Was Federal. According to the Republican Policy Committee, Murkowski introduced SA 181, “prohibiting establishment of any new federally protected areas in certain states.” This “may include a state in which more than 30 percent of land and water ... is federal.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#); U.S. Congress, Congressional Record, [2/3/21](#)]

- **February 2020: Federal Government Owned And Managed Nearly 61% Of Alaska’s Land Area (222,666,580 Acres).** [Congressional Research Service, “Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data, [2/21/20](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Murkowski Introduced An Amendment “Prohibiting Actions By The Executive Branch That Would Make The United States More Reliant On Countries With Weaker Environmental Or Labor Standards For Oil, Gas, Or Hardrock Mineral Production.” According to the Congressional Record, Murkowski introduced SA 182, “prohibiting actions by the executive branch that would make the United States more reliant on countries with weaker environmental or labor standards for oil, gas, or hardrock mineral production.” [U.S. Congress, Congressional Record, [2/3/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Murkowski Introduced SA 806, “Prohibiting Actions Making U.S. Reliant On Countries With Weaker Environmental Standards.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Murkowski introduced SA 806, “prohibiting actions making U.S. reliant on countries with weaker environmental standards.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Hoeven Introduced At Least Eight Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda, Specifically Permitting, Fracking, Carbon Tax, And Pipelines.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 110, “Requiring Local Approval Before Federal LWCF Land Acquisition.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 110, “requiring local approval before federal LWCF land acquisition.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 113, Point Of Order “Against New Federal Environmental Permitting That Would Threaten Grid Reliability.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 113, “POO against new federal environmental permitting that would threaten grid reliability.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 805, “Prohibiting New Federal Environmental Permitting That Would Threaten Electrical Grid.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 805, “prohibiting new federal environmental permitting that would threaten electrical grid.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 126, “Against Action Restricting Development Of Oil, Gas, Hard Rock, Or Critical Minerals.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 126, “against action restricting development of oil, gas, hard rock, or critical minerals.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 128, “Against Regulating Hydraulic Fracturing.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 128, “against regulating hydraulic fracturing.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 129, “Against Taxing Or Placing A Price On Carbon Dioxide.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 129, “against taxing or placing a price on carbon dioxide.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 887, “Prohibiting A Federal Carbon Tax.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 887, “prohibiting a federal carbon tax.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Hoeven Introduced SA 876, “Streamlin[ing] Review Of New Oil And Gas Pipelines.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Hoeven introduced SA 876, “streamlin[ing] review of new oil and gas pipelines.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Cassidy Introduced At Least One Amendment Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda, Specifically Oil Leasing.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Cassidy Introduced SA 479, “Supporting Energy Leasing In Nex Mexico, Colorado, And The Gulf Of Mexico.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Cassidy introduced SA 479, “supporting energy leasing in New Mexico, Colorado, and the Gulf of Mexico.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Lankford Introduced At Least Two Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden’s Environmental Agenda, Specifically Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lankford Introduced SA 424, “Prohibiting Agencies From Using Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases Unless Compliance.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lankford introduced SA 424, “prohibiting agencies from using social cost of greenhouse gases unless compliance.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lankford Introduced SA 423, “Prohibiting Using Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases Unless Compliance.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lankford introduced SA 426, “prohibiting using social cost of greenhouse gases unless compliance.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

Lee Introduced At Least Four Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden's Environmental Agenda, Specifically Paris Climate Agreement And Oil Leasing.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lee Introduced SA 243, "Against International Agreements That Have Not Been Approved By 2/3 Of The Senate," Which Was Aimed At Paris Climate Accords. According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lee introduced SA 243, which was an amendment "against international agreements that have not been approved by 2/3 of the Senate." The amendment was categorized as "Energy/Environment/Ag." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lee Introduced SA 245, "Advice And Consent For Treaties And International Agreements," Which Was Aimed At Paris Climate Accords.** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lee introduced SA 245, "advice and consent for treaties and international agreements. The amendment was categorized as "Energy/Environment/Ag." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lee Introduced SA 770, "Let[ting] Federal Revenues Reflect Continued Leasing Of Oil And Gas On Federal Lands." According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lee introduced SA 770, "let[ting] federal revenues reflect continued leasing of oil and gas on federal lands." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Lee Introduced SA 836, "Streamlining Environmental Policies." According to the Republican Policy Committee, Lee introduced SA 836, "streamlining environmental policies." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

Marshall Introduced At Least Two Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden's Environmental Agenda.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Marshall Introduced SA 21, Point Of Order "Against Job Losses In Oil And Gas Industry." According to the Republican Policy Committee, Marshall introduced SA 473, "POO against job losses in oil and gas industry." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Marshall Introduced SA 473, "Providing Assistance To Workers In The Oil And Gas Industries Due To Executive Orders."** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Marshall introduced SA 473, "providing assistance to workers in the oil and gas industries due to executive orders." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

Risch Introduced At Least Five Amendments Designed To Undercut Biden's Environmental Agenda, Specifically Permitting And Special Presidential Envoy For Climate.

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Risch Introduced SA 229, Point Of Order "Against Revoking Certain Interior And Energy Department Permits." According to the Republican Policy Committee, Risch introduced SA 229, "POO against revoking certain Interior and Energy Department permits." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden's COVID-19 Relief Plan, Risch Introduced SA 234, Point Of Order "Against Legislation That Makes Amounts Available For Federal Environmental Permitting."** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Risch introduced SA 818, "against legislation that makes amounts available for federal environmental permitting." [Republican Policy Committee, "2021 Budget Amendment Tracker," [2/2/21](#)]

During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Risch Introduced SA 740, “Relating To The Special Presidential Envoy For Climate.” According to the Republican Policy Committee, Risch introduced SA 740, “relating to the special presidential envoy for climate.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Risch Introduced SA 742, Point Of Order “Against Funding For The Office Of Special Presidential Envoy For Climate.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Risch introduced SA 742, “POO against funding for the Office of Special Presidential Envoy for climate.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]
- **During Budget Reconciliation Process On Biden’s COVID-19 Relief Plan, Risch Introduced SA 818, “Revis[ing] Allocations For Special Presidential Envoy For Climate.”** According to the Republican Policy Committee, Risch introduced SA 818, “revis[ing] allocation for special presidential envoy for climate.” [Republican Policy Committee, “2021 Budget Amendment Tracker,” [2/2/21](#)]

All But One GOP Senator On ENR Committee Co-Sponsored Legislation To Block Biden’s Executive Action Pausing Leases For Oil And Gas Drilling On Federal Land.

9 Of 10 GOP Senators On ENR Committee—Every GOP Member Except Murkowski—Co-Sponsored Legislation To Block Biden’s Executive Action Pausing New Leases For Oil And Gas Drilling.

January 2021: Senator Cynthia Lummis Introduced Bill “To Prohibit Any President Of Federal Agency From Blocking Energy Or Mineral Leasing Permits On Federal Lands Without Congressional Scrutiny.” “U.S. Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., introduced a bill to prohibit any president or federal agency from blocking energy or mineral leasing permits on federal lands without congressional scrutiny.” [Center Square, [1/31/21](#)]

- **Proposed Legislation Came After Biden “Issued Over 30 Executive Orders In His First Week In Office,” Including Order “Prohibiting The Issuing Of new Mining And Energy Leasing On Federal Lands.”** “The proposed legislation comes after President Joe Biden issued over 30 executive orders in his first week in office, more than any president in history, the New York Post reports. [...] Biden last week signed an executive order prohibiting the issuing of new mining and energy leasing on federal lands. One day after he took office, the Department of the Interior issued a 60-day suspension of issuing new leases for oil and gas drilling on federal lands.” [Center Square, [1/31/21](#)]
- **Nine GOP Members Of Senate ENR—Every GOP Member Except Lisa Murkowski--Co-Sponsored Legislation.** These senators are:
 - John Barrasso
 - Bill Cassidy
 - Steve Daines
 - John Hoeven
 - Cindy Hyde-Smith
 - James Lankford
 - Mike Lee
 - Roger Marshall
 - Jim Risch

[United States Congress, S.76, accessed 2/3/21]

- **Center Square HEADLINE: “GOP Senators Propose Bill To Block Biden Energy Orders”** [Center Square, [1/31/21](#)]

At Same Time, At Least One Industry Group Sued To Block Biden's Executive Action Pausing New Leases For Oil And Gas Drilling.

January 2021: Western Energy Alliance Sued Biden Administration Over Executive Order Pausing Oil And Gas Drilling Leases. “A lawsuit challenging President Joe Biden’s indefinite pause on any new oil and gas leasing on federal public lands is sitting in federal court in Wyoming and Utah’s two senators are part of a group pushing new legislation to restrict the action from a sitting president without congressional authority. [...] The ban, which is accompanied by a directive to end any future federal subsidies to the industry where possible, prompted a lawsuit by Western Energy Alliance, which represents hundreds of independent oil and gas producers in Utah and elsewhere in the West.” [Deseret News, [1/29/21](#)]

Inauguration Day: Daines Announced Bills To Undercut Biden's Executive Actions Halting Keystone XL Pipeline And Rejoining Paris Accords; Four Other ENR Members Were Original Cosponsors.

January 20, 2021: Senator Steve Daines Introduced Bill To “Authorize The Continued Construction of The Keystone XL Pipeline Following President Biden’s Decision To Revoke The Cross-Border Operation Permit.” “U.S. Senator Steve Daines will introduce legislation to authorize the continued construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline following President Biden’s decision to revoke the cross-border operation permit.” [Office of Steven Daines, 1/20/21]

- **Barrasso, Hoeven, Marshall, And Risch Were Among Original Co-Sponsors.** “Daines will introduce the legislation with Senators Crapo (Idaho), Risch (Idaho), Barrasso (Wyo.), Marshall (Kan.), Moran (Kan.), Inhofe (Okla.), and Hoeven (N.D.). Several other western senators are expected to sign on.” [Office of Steven Daines, 1/20/21]

January 20, 2021: Following Biden’s Announcement The U.S. Would Rejoin The Paris Climate Accords, Daines Announced Plans To “Introduce A Senate Resolution” Calling On Biden To Submit The Agreement For Senate Consideration. “U.S. Senator Steve Daines today announced plans to introduce a Senate resolution calling on President Joe Biden to submit the Paris Climate Agreement to the U.S. Senate for advice and consent as required by the Constitution before re-joining the treaty. This follows Biden announcing his intent to re-enter the United States into the Paris Climate Agreement which President Trump withdrew from last year.” [Office of Senator Steven Daines, 1/20/21]

- **Barrasso And Marshall Were Among Original Co-Sponsors.** “Daines will introduce the Senate resolution with Senators Crapo (Idaho), Barrasso (Wyo.), Lummis (Wyo.), Moran (Kan.) and Marshall (Kan.). Several other western senators are expected to sign on.” [Office of Senator Steven Daines, 1/20/21]