CCL's BAAJA Fact Sheet

The **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act** (BAAJA) will significantly reduce emissions, accelerate clean energy deployment, and lower electricity costs.

Transmission reform

BAAJA is expected to reduce power sector emissions by a cumulative almost 2 billion tons through 2041, and nearly 3 billion tons through 2050. (Resources for the Future)

BAAJA's transmission reforms could reduce grid costs by $7 billion, lower residential electricity bills by $1.1 billion, and reduce costs from shortages by 76 percent while boosting clean energy and cutting carbon emissions (C2ES / Greenline Insights)

- Strengthens federal backstop authority for interstate transmission siting.
- Requires stronger regional and interregional transmission planning and improves cost allocation.
- Requires consideration of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced reconductoring.
- Better coordinates transmission planning and interconnection and helps expedite the interconnection queue.

Build faster

With BAAJA in place, the rate of new interregional transmission additions to the grid is projected to increase by 167-262% relative to the pace over the last decade. (Rhodium Group)

- Narrows which projects trigger National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, including some transmission upgrades and projects in existing rights-of-way.
- Improves agency coordination and reduces duplicative permitting.
- Narrows some aspects of environmental review.
- Establishes a 150-day deadline for legal challenges under NEPA, the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.
- Limits the ability of litigation to halt already-approved projects and generally requires challengers to have participated earlier in the review process.

Learn more: cclusa.org/baaja-toolkit-public

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Fair permitting certainty

BAAJA creates more certainty for clean energy investment. Developers can invest in and build projects with greater confidence that lawful permits won't disappear when administrations change.

An estimate from Employ America projects that BAAJA could add up to 105,600 industrial jobs through 2040.

- Protects already-permitted projects from having federal approvals arbitrarily revoked.
- Prevents administrations from discriminating against an entire category of energy technology through permitting decisions.
- Gives developers legal recourse when the federal government unlawfully interferes with fully permitted projects.
- A manager's amendment added to the bill on Nov. 7 goes even further to preserve critical protections against politically motivated interference while refining safeguards.

Community engagement

Communities should have meaningful opportunities to shape projects through early, transparent engagement. BAAJA includes some improvements and some limitations in this area.

- Requires stakeholder engagement reports for projects undergoing an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.
- Creates an online permitting system to improve accessibility and transparency.
- Requires a 45-day comment period for all environmental impact statements under NEPA.
- Preserves a statutory role for Tribes in consultation over historic and cultural resources.
- A manager's amendment added to the bill on Nov. 7 goes even further to strengthen Tribal consultation, protect Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), preserve Tribal authority, protect sensitive Tribal information

Learn more in our BAAJA Toolkit: cclusa.org/baaja-toolkit-public

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