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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum For America's Ideas*

# **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

2023 Legislative Summit | Aug. 14 - 16

Indiana Convention Center | 100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis 46225

# **NCSL Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Infrastructure**

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# NCSL STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEMBERS

*Updated August 8, 2023*

NCSL’s Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee is one of eight NCSL Standing Committees. These committees are vital to NCSL’s successful representation of state interests in Washington, D.C., and the facilitation of policy innovation among state and territorial legislatures. Please contact any of the committee staff for details about the committee, state-federal policies under its jurisdiction, or upcoming meetings and events.

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NCSL D.C. Office: [Kristen Hildreth](#) and [Megan Bland](#)  
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*\* Indicates a member of NRI's Policy Working Group*

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Matt Obrecht (staff)  
Ian Shaw (staff)

**ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION**  
**AGENDA**

Sunday, August 13	
<p>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, 3rd Floor, JW Grand 10</i></p>	<p><b>NCSL Agriculture Task Force</b> NCSL's Agriculture Task Force will meet for a morning of educational sessions and afternoon tours. Contact NCSL Staff, Kristen Hildreth (<a href="mailto:kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org">kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org</a>) for more details. Space is limited.</p>
<p>8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, 1st Floor, White River AB</i></p>	<p><b>NCSL Alternative Transportation User Fee Foundation Partnership</b> NCSL's Alternative Transportation User Fees Foundation Partnership discusses the benefits and challenges of various state transportation user fee options, such as road usage charges and electric vehicle charging fees. This partnership meeting is only open to partners, legislators, and legislative staff. Contact NCSL staffer Douglas Shinkle (<a href="mailto:douglas.shinkle@ncsl.org">douglas.shinkle@ncsl.org</a>) for more details. Space is limited.</p>
Monday, August 14	
<p>10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 125-126</i></p>	<p><b>Drugs and Alcohol Behind the Wheel: What's a State to Do?</b> Drivers who are drunk and high threaten roadway safety and present challenges for policymakers and law enforcement alike. Learn about the prevalence of this dangerous behavior and what policy options states can consider to combat multi-substance impaired drivers.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Darrin Grondel</b>, senior vice president of traffic safety, Responsibility.org</p> <p>Speakers: <b>John Lovick</b>, vice president pro tempore of the Senate, Washington Legislature <b>Leah Walton</b>, transportation safety advocate, NTSB <b>Matthew Kling</b>, patrolman first class, Angola Police Department</p>
<p>10:30 – 11:45 a.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 109</i></p>	<p><b>Energy Staff Network</b> Come learn about NCSL's Energy Staff Network! It provides training, education and opportunities for collaboration for legislative staff working on all facets of state energy policy, from energy security to grid modernization and everything in between.</p>

<p>Noon – 1:15 p.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i></p>	<p><b>Electric Evolution: Power Changes and Challenges</b> The electric sector faces unprecedented upheaval: increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters threaten grids that are undergoing transformations in power generation and delivery. Join us to explore these emerging dynamics, including the role of natural gas, renewables, and the impact of baseload resource retirements.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Sen. Eric Koch</b>, Indiana General Assembly</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Aidan Tuohy</b>, senior program manager, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) <b>Andre Porter</b>, senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary, Midcontinent Independent System Operator <b>Diane Leopold</b>, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Dominion Energy</p> <p><i>NCSL gratefully acknowledges Dominion Energy for its support of this luncheon.</i></p>
<p>1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i></p>	<p><b>Freight Forward: Keeping America's Rails Safe</b> Several high-profile derailments and labor disputes have put rail freight operations in the spotlight, drawing the attention of both state and federal policymakers. Join us as we discuss rail safety with federal leaders and representatives from states working to improve the situation in their communities.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Douglas Shinkle</b>, associate director, Environment, Energy &amp; Transportation, NCSL</p> <p>Panelists: <b>Amit Bose</b>, administrator, Federal Railroad Administration <b>John Fleps</b>, vice president of safety, Norfolk Southern Corporation <b>Mike Schultz</b>, House majority leader, Utah Legislature <b>Sen. Rob Kupec</b>, Minnesota Legislature</p>
<p>2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i></p>	<p><b>Land Grab: The Latest on Foreign Ownership of U.S. Land</b> Foreign owners hold more than 40 million acres of U.S. farmland, a trend that has many legislators raising concerns about the impact on the food supply and national security. Several states are considering legislation to restrict such ownership. Join us to unpack the data and varying requirements around foreign land ownership in the U.S. and explore the latest state and federal action.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Kenneth Bogner</b>, Senate president pro tempore, Montana Legislature</p>



	<p>Speakers:  <b>Dan Burke</b>, director, Air Force Foreign Investment Risk Review Office  <b>Micah Brown</b>, staff attorney, National Agricultural Law Center  <b>Zongyuan Zoe Liu</b>, fellow for international political economy, Council on Foreign Relations</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, August 15</b></p>	
<p>10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i></p>	<p><b>Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee Business Meeting</b>  Join us as the committee debates and votes on policies that guide its advocacy work in Washington, D.C. All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the business meeting and consider policy directives and resolutions.</p> <p>Presiding:  <b>Rep. Megan Blanksma</b>, co-chair, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee  <b>Rep. David A. Tarnas</b>, co-chair, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee</p> <p><b>Downloads:</b>  <a href="#">NCSL Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Infrastructure: Policy Directives and Resolutions</a></p>
<p>1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  <i>ICC, Level 1, Wabash Ballroom</i></p>	<p><b>Federal Update: Rapid Fire</b>  Join NCSL's Washington, D.C., staff for a fast-paced update on the farm bill, student debt relief, SCOTUS and more!</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Molly Ramsdell</b>, division director, National Conference of State Legislatures</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Austin Reid</b>, senior legislative director, National Conference of State Legislatures  <b>Erlinda A. Doherty</b>, senior legislative director, National Conference of State Legislatures  <b>Kristen Hildreth</b>, senior legislative director, National Conference of State Legislatures  <b>Lauren Kallins</b>, legislative director, National Conference of State Legislatures</p>
<p>1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  <i>ICC, Level 1, 101-103</i></p>	<p><b>Long on Cash, Short on Capacity: The Infrastructure Dilemma</b>  States are managing billions of federal dollars while struggling with workforce and other capacity challenges. A lack of staff needed to apply for and manage projects has led some states to skip applying for funding entirely. Join us as we discuss state efforts to build capacity and make</p>

	<p>infrastructure projects shovel-ready, as well as how the federal government can help support those efforts.</p> <p>Moderator:  <b>Suzanne Hultin</b>, director, National Conference of State Legislatures</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Rep. Jim Pressel</b>, Indiana General Assembly  <b>Kevin Pollari</b>, principal, Deloitte  <b>Sen. Michael Dembrow</b>, Oregon Legislative Assembly  <b>Paige Shevlin</b>, strategic advisor for infrastructure workforce development, U.S. Department of Transportation</p>
<p>2:45 – 3:45 p.m.  <i>ICC, Level 1, 134-136</i></p>	<p><b>Don't Let Disasters Break the Bank!</b>  Increasingly expensive natural disasters have prompted states and the federal government to develop innovative funding and financing, such as infrastructure banks, bonds and revolving loan funds. Come learn how these mechanisms are being used to address disaster prevention and mitigation, and their impact on long-term fiscal health.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Geoffrey Buswick</b>, managing director and government sector leader, U.S. public finance, S&amp;P Global Market Intelligence  <b>Kristin Thomsgard</b>, program director, Department of Defense  <b>Samantha Medlock</b>, president, Climate Risk Advisors, LLC</p>
<p>2:45 – 5 p.m.  <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i></p>	<p><b>Blazing Trails: Connecting Communities and Growing the Economy</b>  Join a walking and cycling tour of Indianapolis' wildly popular trail network to learn how bipartisan legislative accomplishments in Indiana and other Midwestern states have boosted economic development while creating great new transportation and recreation options. NCSL appreciates the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's support of this tour. Please email NCSL staffer Annie Kitch (<a href="mailto:annie.kitch@ncsl.org">annie.kitch@ncsl.org</a>) for more information and inquiries about registration.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Andrew Dupuy</b>, director of state-level policy, Rails to Trails Conservancy  <b>Carey Hamilton</b>, House minority caucus chair, Indiana General Assembly  <b>Mike Karickhoff</b>, Speaker pro tempore of the House, Indiana General Assembly  <b>Sen. Stephanie Kunze</b>, Ohio General Assembly</p>
<p>4 – 5 p.m.  <i>ICC, Level 1, 134-136</i></p>	<p><b>Disaster Resilience Roundtable</b>  Join us for an informal discussion on some of the biggest challenges states face when it comes to disaster risk and resilience and learn about NCSL's upcoming report on the topic.</p>

<b>Wednesday, August 16</b>	
9:30 – 10:45 a.m. <i>ICC, Level 1, 125-128</i>	<b>NCSL Business Meeting</b> All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the annual business meeting to consider policy directives and resolutions that will guide NCSL's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration, elect NCSL officers and executive committee, and approve the NCSL budget. All Summit attendees are welcome to observe.
11 a.m. – Noon <i>ICC, Level 1, 140-142</i>	<b>Powering Progress: Energy Infrastructure Challenges</b> An array of obstacles bedevil efforts to build new infrastructure, including energy, water and transportation assets. Join us as we explore the challenges in siting and permitting new energy infrastructure and highlight opportunities for state legislatures to balance tradeoffs and remove barriers.  Moderator: <b>Kristen Hildreth</b> , senior legislative director, National Conference of State Legislatures  Speakers: <b>Alex Herrgott</b> , president and CEO, The Permitting Institute <b>Erik Helland</b> , chair, Iowa Utilities Board <b>Robert Thormeyer</b> , director, state, international and tribal affairs division, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission <b>Sarah Freeman</b> , commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
<b>Thursday, August 17</b>	
7 a.m. – 5 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, 3rd Floor, JW Grand 1-2</i>	<b>Task Force on Energy Supply Meeting</b> The NCSL Task Force on Energy Supply brings together legislators to examine critical energy issues that policymakers face as they shape energy policies to build a reliable, affordable, and resilient national energy system. Created in 2009, the task force consists of legislators and legislative staff with experience and an interest in developing and analyzing state energy policy. If you have questions please contact Kristen Hildreth at <a href="mailto:kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org">kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org</a> .
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. <i>JW Marriott, 3rd Floor, JW Grand 3</i>	<b>NCSL Foundation's Public-Private Partnership on Recycling</b> The NCSL Foundation's Public-Private Partnership on Recycling meets for the last time. Attendees will hear from experts on extended producer responsibility implementation, recycled content mandates and more! The meeting also features an afternoon tour. If you have questions please contact Jennifer Schultz at <a href="mailto:jennifer.schultz@ncsl.org">jennifer.schultz@ncsl.org</a> .
<b>Friday, August 18</b>	
7 a.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>NCSL Task Force on Energy Supply</b>

<p><i>JW Marriott, 3rd Floor, JW Grand 1-2</i></p>	<p>The NCSL Task Force on Energy Supply brings together legislators to examine critical energy issues that policymakers face as they shape energy policies to build a reliable, affordable, and resilient national energy system. Created in 2009, the task force consists of legislators and legislative staff with experience and an interest in developing and analyzing state energy policy. If you have questions please contact Kristen Hildreth at <a href="mailto:kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org">kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org</a>.</p>
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# NRI COMMITTEE ONLINE RESOURCES

*Updated August 8, 2023*



The NCSL Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee (NRI) is pleased to notify you of our updated website, where you can find up-to-date committee information and resources at any time.

- [\*\*COMMITTEE HOMEPAGE\*\*](#): Overview page for the NRI Committee including links to specific resource pages (listed below) and timely news alerts.
- [\*\*COMMITTEE POLICIES\*\*](#): All state-federal policies that have been approved by the committee, used for NCSL’s advocacy in Washington, D.C.
- [\*\*NRI COMMITTEE AND CONGRESS\*\*](#): Regularly updated collection of letters and testimonies sent to the U.S. Congress, related to NRI Committee policy.
- [\*\*NEWSLETTER\*\*](#): NRI’s newsletter tracks transportation, energy, environment, and agriculture news across the federal government.
- [\*\*INFO ALERTS & ARCHIVES\*\*](#): A one-stop-shop for all NRI Committee-related info alerts (concise informational briefs on breaking news of interest to our committee).
- [\*\*MEETING RESOURCES\*\*](#): Information from recent NCSL meetings—including agendas, presentations from our sessions (when available) and other resources of interest—plus details about upcoming events.
- [\*\*NATURAL RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE BILL-TRACKING DATABASES\*\*](#): A series of up-to-date databases that track legislation introduced in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico:
  - [\*\*ENERGY\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*TRANSPORTATION\*\*](#)

# NCSL NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

## BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 15

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. | ICC, Level 1, 140-142

- Overview & Review of Procedures
- Consideration of (*listed in order of consideration*):
  - Existing Policy Resolutions
  - Existing Policy Directives
  - Proposed Amendments to Existing Policy Directives
  - Proposed Policy Resolutions

# POLICY SUMMARIES

The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee will consider the following policy directives and resolutions at the 2023 Legislative Summit. For the full text of policies please see [NCSL's NRI Committee Policy Booklet](#).

## **Existing Policy Resolutions**

**Autonomous Vehicles:** This is a renewal of an existing resolution recognizing the need to clearly define state and federal roles for the development, regulation and deployment of autonomous vehicles, as well as to avoid unnecessary federal preemption and burdensome federal mandates as states and the federal government work to understand and regulate these vehicles.

**Microplastics Research:** This is a renewal of an existing resolution urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase research efforts on microplastics.

**National Appliance Efficiency Standards:** This is a renewal of an existing resolution urging Congress and the Department of Energy to provide full funding for the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, to amend standards as statutorily required, and to regularly review standards and resist the repeal of existing standards.

**Recovering America's Wildlife:** This is a renewal of an existing resolution encouraging Congress to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which would provide significant additional funding to state wildlife agencies to accelerate their implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans.

**State Supported Grade Crossing Elimination and Separation Programs:** This is a renewal of an existing resolution urging Congress to continue to expand and enhance state and local grade crossing protection funds which have the effect of improving safety, mobility and economic development potential for both the railroads and motoring public throughout the country.

## **Existing Policy Directives**

**Aviation:** This is an existing directive highlighting the need for Congress and the administration to actively engage state legislatures in discussions on the development and preservation of our system of airports and to avoid federal mandates, preemption of state authority and where possible provide states maximum flexibility in the aviation arena. The directive also contains language on Unmanned Aerial Systems.

**Energy Security:** This is an existing directive urging Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Energy through the national laboratories and technology centers to develop a national energy strategy for moving the United States toward independence from non-North American energy sources.

**National Energy:** This is an existing directive urging the federal government to continue working cooperatively with state, local and tribal governments to develop, implement and maintain an expansive, integrated, environmentally sensitive and cost-effective national energy policy.

## **Proposed Amendments to Existing Policy Directives**

**Surface Transportation Federalism Directive:** This is an existing directive that guides staff on how to lobby on federal surface transportation programs and includes provisions that call for an increase in federal funding for surface transportation. There is an NCSL staff-led amendment which would call on DOT to ensure that state legislators are represented on the Federal System Funding Alternative Advisory Board, as since the early 2000s, state legislatures have been at the forefront of discussions to explore possible replacements for the motor fuel tax, often leading the call for studies and demonstration projects. It would also call on DOT to consider state expertise as they develop the required national alternative transportation user fee pilot program, establishing it in coordination with states who are considering, and who have established such mechanisms.

## **Proposed Policy Resolutions**

**Beyond Visual Line of Sight Operations for Unmanned Aircraft Systems:** This is a new resolution urging Congress to require the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a regulatory pathway for certification or approval of Beyond Visual Line of Sight Operations for Unmanned Aircraft Systems for first responders to support drones as first responder programs across the nation.

**Chronic Wasting Disease:** This is a new resolution building upon an expiring resolution urging Congress to provide states with additional flexible federal funds for research and response to emerging wildlife diseases to effectively address the wildlife disease crisis and enable states to assure their wildlife populations are healthy.

**National Infrastructure Bank Resolution:** This is a new resolution calling on Congress to pass H.R. 4052 to create the National Infrastructure Bank. It has several co-sponsors.

**Resolution for Support of HFOs:** This is a new resolution encouraging Congress to craft balanced and science supported PFAS legislation, where policy definitions should not apply to products that contain intentionally added PFAS with uses that are currently listed as acceptable, acceptable subject to use conditions, or acceptable subject to narrowed use limits in EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy program, as long as the product containing PFAS is being used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances under the conditions specified in the rule, and to consider and support policies that do not disrupt the adoption of HFOs and the development of a robust market for low-GWP refrigerants.