

THE ENERGY BILLS RELIEF ACT

(Updated 1/21/26)



A Roadmap to Lower Your Energy Bill

Authored by SEEC Clean Energy Deployment Task Force Co-Chairs
Rep. Sean Casten (IL) and Rep. Mike Levin (CA)

At a time when electricity rates are soaring across the country and millions of families are struggling to pay their rising energy bills, the single most impactful thing we can do to lower energy costs for Americans is to expand access to cheap energy.

The cheapest, most reliable forms of energy are also the cleanest. We have the tools to power America with abundant, affordable, American-made clean energy.

The missing link between those tools and expanded access to cheap, reliable, and efficient energy is a consumer-first energy policy. For too long, U.S. energy policy has boosted the profits of energy producers at the expense of energy consumers. We must shift our focus to lowering costs and increasing reliability for American homes and businesses by deploying more clean energy.

The Energy Bills Relief Act is firmly rooted in the American values of choice and competition. It prioritizes consumers and ensures access to cheap energy for our homes, businesses, and economy.

WHAT DOES THE ENERGY BILLS RELIEF ACT DO?

1

Cuts costs for energy consumers

American consumers currently pay too much for energy. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Provide energy assistance to millions of households, protecting families from utility shutoffs.
- Protect domestic natural gas prices from the higher-priced international market.
- Incentivize electric utilities to save consumers' money.
- Prevent energy market price manipulation.

2

Reverses attacks on cheap energy

Recently raised taxes and regulatory attacks on clean energy will increase Americans' costs in the coming years. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Restore the historic tax credits for cheap energy that Congress enacted in 2022 and revoked in 2025.
- Prevent presidents from abusing federal permitting processes to block clean energy.
- Prevent a president from invoking "energy emergencies" to prop open expensive fossil plants.

3

Lowers energy bills for American families

Household energy bills are already too high and must be reduced. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Support weatherization and energy efficiency programs to reduce household energy consumption.
- Provides loans to rural utilities to make energy efficiency improvements in their communities.

4

Unclogs the cheap energy bottleneck

It takes far too long for cheap energy to connect to the electric grid and power our homes. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Expedite the process of connecting new energy sources to the grid.
- Expand community solar and streamline local permitting for distributed energy systems.
- Increase the capacity of the existing grid by promoting the use of advanced grid technologies.
- Increase the supply of electricity transformers, the linchpins of any electricity system, currently in critically short supply.

5

Builds out a 21st century electricity grid

Our grid needs to be modernized to match the dynamic nature of the economy it powers. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Establish a tax credit for transmission infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting cheap energy to the grid.
- Improve planning between electricity transmission regions and ensure that neighboring regions can support each other with additional energy during emergencies.
- Allocate the cost of upgrading the grid fairly.
- Reduce the risk that costly and devastating wildfires pose to the grid.
- Increase the authority of the bipartisan independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to site transmission lines of national importance.

6

Develops cheap energy responsibly on public lands & waters

America's public lands and waters can deliver abundant cheap clean energy. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Provide states and local governments a share of the revenue to promote responsible development of renewable energy on our public lands and waters.
- Ensure the interoperability of offshore wind turbines with onshore grids.
- Allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to charge geothermal energy developers fees to fund BLM's processing of their permit applications.

7

Protects consumers in electricity markets

Too often, electricity markets are regulated to serve energy producers at the expense of energy consumers. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Avoid burdening families with the costs of powering new large energy consumers on the grid, such as data centers.
- Modernize the way we track energy productivity and utility performance.

8

Promotes local collaboration for successful deployment

Energy projects move faster when communities are involved from the start. **The Energy Bills Relief Act will:**

- Provide incentives to work with communities and historically-disadvantaged groups early-- reducing risk, avoiding conflict, and sharing the benefits from America's cheap energy boom
- Establish dedicated personnel to work with communities to address problems.
- Ensure state and local governments have the resources they need to incorporate community input to inform project development.
- Ensure our federal agencies are adequately staffed and resourced to review and process permits expeditiously.