

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10080

To impose lobbying restrictions on former officers and employees of State regulatory authorities, and to condition State energy program financial assistance on State compliance with those restrictions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 10, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To impose lobbying restrictions on former officers and employees of State regulatory authorities, and to condition State energy program financial assistance on State compliance with those restrictions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Utility Lob-
5 bying Ban Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONDITION ON GRANTING STATE ENERGY PRO-**
2 **GRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding part D of the
4 Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et
5 seq.), beginning with the first full fiscal year following the
6 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall with-
7 hold 10 percent of the amount of State energy program
8 financial assistance to be granted to a State in a fiscal
9 year unless the Secretary determines the State—

10 (1) prohibits any person who is a former officer
11 or employee of a State regulatory authority from,
12 after the termination of his or her service or employ-
13 ment with such State regulatory authority, making
14 an appearance or advocating before any officer or
15 employee of such State regulatory authority on be-
16 half of any electric utility with respect to which such
17 State regulatory authority has ratemaking authority
18 in connection with a particular matter in which the
19 electric utility is a party or has a direct and sub-
20 stantial interest and in which the person partici-
21 pated personally and substantially during his or her
22 service or employment with the State regulatory au-
23 thority;

24 (2) prohibits any person described in paragraph
25 (1) from, within 2 years after the termination of his
26 or her service or employment with such State regu-

1 latory authority, making an appearance or advo-
2 cating before any officer or employee of such State
3 regulatory authority on behalf of any electric utility
4 with respect to which such State regulatory author-
5 ity has ratemaking authority in connection with a
6 particular matter in which the electric utility is a
7 party or has a direct and substantial interest and
8 which such person knows or reasonably should know
9 was actually pending under his or her official re-
10 sponsibility within a period of 1 year before such
11 termination; and

12 (3) enforces the prohibitions required under
13 paragraphs (1) and (2), including by investigating
14 complaints, imposing penalties for noncompliance,
15 and allowing affected parties to seek recovery of
16 damages arising from violations.

17 (b) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—Not later
18 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section,
19 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall determine,
20 based on a review of applicable State law, whether each
21 State has in effect the lobbying restrictions described in
22 subsection (a).

23 (c) RESTORATION.—If the Secretary withholds from
24 a State financial assistance under subsection (a), the Sec-
25 retary shall grant to the State the withheld financial as-

1 sistance in the following fiscal year if the State is in com-
2 pliance for that fiscal year.

3 (d) CURE PERIOD.—If the Secretary determines a
4 State does not comply with subsection (a) for a fiscal year,
5 the State shall have 90 days to remedy the noncompliance
6 before the Secretary withholds financial assistance from
7 the State under subsection (a).

8 (e) METHODS OF COMPLIANCE.—A State may com-
9 ply with subsection (a) through any legally binding mecha-
10 nism under State law, including legislation, administrative
11 rulemaking, or binding orders of a State regulatory au-
12 thority, provided such mechanism achieves the lobbying re-
13 strictions required under such subsection.

14 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out
16 this section, the Secretary shall—

17 (A) establish procedures for conducting the
18 annual compliance review under subsection (b);

19 (B) maintain a public database that identi-
20 fies the status of each State’s compliance with
21 subsection (a);

22 (C) provide technical assistance to States
23 to comply with subsection (a);

24 (D) issue guidance interpreting this sec-
25 tion;

1 (E) establish a process to appeal a deter-
2 mination by the Secretary that a State does not
3 comply with subsection (a); and

4 (F) annually report to Congress on State
5 compliance rates.

6 (2) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL REGULATIONS.—

7 The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry
8 out this section not later than 9 months after the
9 date of enactment of this section.

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) RATEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The term
12 “ratemaking authority” has the meaning given such
13 term in section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory
14 Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602).

15 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Energy.

17 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
18 ing given such term in section 3 of the Energy Pol-
19 icy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6202).

20 (4) STATE ENERGY PROGRAM FINANCIAL AS-
21 SISTANCE.—The term “State energy program finan-
22 cial assistance” means the financial assistance
23 granted to a State under section 363 of the Energy
24 Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6323).

1 (5) STATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The
2 term “State regulatory authority” has the meaning
3 given such term in section 3 of the Public Utility
4 Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602).

○