

LA PAZ COUNTY SOLAR ENERGY AND JOB CREATION  
ACT

FEBRUARY 11, 2026.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. LEE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1043]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 1043) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 1043 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

More than 60 percent of the land within the county boundary of La Paz County, Arizona, is owned by the United States and managed by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In 2019, section 1008 of Public Law 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, authorized the conveyance to the County of 5,935 acres of BLM lands to allow the County to proceed with the development of a large-scale solar farm.

H.R. 1043 would require the Secretary of the Interior to convey an additional 3,400 acres of BLM land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, at fair market value.

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On February 6, 2025, Representative Gosar introduced H.R. 1043. The House Committee on Natural Resources reported H.R. 1043 on July 2, 2025 (H. Rept. 119–183). The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1043 on July 21, 2025, and the Senate referred it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the following day. Companion legislation, S. 909, was introduced by Senator Gallego, which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 10, 2025. S. 909 was cosponsored by Senator Kelly.

In the 118th Congress, S. 1657 was introduced by Senators Sinema and Kelly on May 17, 2023. The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a hearing on S. 1657 on July 12, 2023 (S. Hrg. 118–285). The Committee ordered the bill reported favorably with an amendment on September 21, 2023 (S. Rept. 118–135). Similar legislation, S. 528, was introduced in the 117th Congress by Senators Sinema and Kelly on March 2, 2021. The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a hearing on S. 528 on October 19, 2021 (S. Hrg. 117–453). Companion legislation, H.R. 1499, was introduced in the 117th House of Representatives on March 2, 2021, by Representative Gosar. Similar legislation, S. 4475, was introduced in the 116th Congress by Senators Sinema and McSally on August 6, 2020. The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a hearing on S. 4475 on September 16, 2020 (S. Hrg. 116–380).

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on September 11, 2025, by a majority voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 1043.

## SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

*Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 provides the short title of the bill as the “La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act.”

*Section 2. Definitions*

Section 2 defines key terms used in the bill.

*Section 3. Conveyance to La Paz County, Arizona*

Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to convey 3,400 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, as depicted on the referenced map, to La Paz County, Arizona (County) as soon as practicable after receiving a request from the County to convey such land.

Subsection (b) requires the conveyance of the land to be subject to valid existing rights and such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary. The subsection also excludes conveyance of any land that contains significant cultural, environmental, wildlife, or recreational resources.

Subsection (c) requires that the land being conveyed be purchased for fair market value and in accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 and based on the Uniform

Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

Subsection (d) requires that, as a condition for the conveyance, the County must take certain steps to avoid or minimize disturbance of Tribal artifacts, coordinate with the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Office to identify potential Tribal artifacts, and allow Tribal representatives to rebury unearthed artifacts at or near where the artifacts were discovered.

Subsection (e) requires the Secretary to keep the referenced map on file for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and authorizes the Secretary to make any minor corrections to the map by mutual agreement with La Paz County.

Subsection (f) withdraws the land to be conveyed from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States.

Subsection (g) requires the County to be responsible for the costs associated with the conveyance.

Subsection (h) directs the proceeds from the sale of the land to be deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and used in accordance with that Act.

#### COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

| By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2026                             | 2026-2030                                 | 2026-2035     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Direct Spending (Outlays)                                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                                | 3                                         | 13            |
| Revenues                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                                | 0                                         | 0             |
| Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                                | 3                                         | 13            |
| Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)                                                                                                                                                                         | 0                                | *                                         | not estimated |
| Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?<br><br>Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? | < \$2.5 billion                  | Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? | Yes           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  | Mandate Effects                           |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | < \$5 billion                    | Contains intergovernmental mandate?       | No            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Contains private-sector mandate? | No                                        |               |
| * = between zero and \$500,000.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  |                                           |               |

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 1043

|                                  | By fiscal year, millions of dollars— |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |           |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
|                                  | 2026                                 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 | 2035 | 2026–2030 | 2026–2035 |
| Estimated Budget Authority ..... | 0                                    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3         | 13        |
| Estimated Outlays .....          | 0                                    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3         | 13        |

CBO estimates that administrative costs to implement H.R. 1043 would total less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2035 period; any associated spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

### *Land Conveyance*

Based on typical time frames for federal land conveyances, CBO expects that the transfer would take about three years to complete. Proceeds from the land sale would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts, that is, as reductions in direct spending. Those receipts would be deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account where they could be spent without further appropriation to purchase eligible land; thus, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending from conveying the land would be negligible because the proceeds would be spent shortly thereafter.

Additionally, La Paz County would be required to pay for all costs associated with the conveyance under H.R. 1043. However, CBO expects that some administrative costs incurred to update maps would not be reimbursed by the county. We estimate those costs would be insignificant; any related spending for such administrative expenses would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

### *Energy Right-of-Way*

Using information from BLM, CBO estimates that the energy project will begin producing in 2027 and the right-of-way will generate an average of \$4 million in receipts annually beginning in that year. Under current law, Arizona and La Paz County would receive one-quarter of those receipts each; the other half would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts (that is, as reductions in direct spending) and would not be available to spend.

Because the land conveyance would be subject to valid existing rights, the solar energy project would continue to move forward; however, La Paz County would receive the receipts from the right-of-way as the owner of the land with the right-of-way. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1043 would increase net direct spending by \$13 million over the 2026–2035 period. The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lilia Ledezma. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
*Director, Congressional Budget Office.*

### REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1043. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 1043, as ordered reported.

### CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

H.R. 1043, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff

benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

There was no hearing on H.R. 1043 during the 119th Congress. In the 118th Congress, the Committee held a hearing on similar legislation, S. 1657, on July 12, 2023. The testimony of the Bureau of Land Management on S. 1657 appears on pages 192–194 of S. Hrg. 118–285.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by H.R. 1043 as ordered reported.

