

Memorandum

TO: Coal Policy Task Force
FROM: Richard Russell, Senior Vice President of Government and Political Affairs
Justin Prosser, Vice President of Government and Political Affairs
DATE: June 11, 2025
SUBJECT: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Reconciliation Update

Tonight, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee released legislative language to meet its reconciliation instructions. The text will become part of the broader Senate reconciliation bill. The legislation addresses issues within the Committee's jurisdiction that will generate over \$15 billion in revenues to the federal government over a ten-year period.

- The bill text can be found [here](#);
- The section-by-section can be found [here](#); and
- The Committee's one-pager can be found [here](#).

Issues of Significance to Coal Mining:

- Section 0202 – Requires the Bureau of Land Management to promptly take a series of standard actions within set timeframes to issue coal leases to qualified applicants;
- Section 0203 – Caps the royalty rate for coal mined on federal land for new and existing mines at 7 percent through 2034;
- Section 0204 – Mandates coal lease sales on 4 million acres with "known recoverable coal resources." This provision addresses the cumulative impacts of federal Resource Management Plan (RMP) restrictions on coal leasing without having to overturn the RMPs individually. Overturning the RMPs individually would likely stand little chance of passing the Senate reconciliation Bryd rules;

- Section 0205 – Enable mining under the Bull Mountain Mining Plan Modification by addressing the “checkerboard” pattern of leasing on federal, state, and private lands.

Next Steps

The text will now be subjected to a process known as the “Bryd-bath,” by which the minority is allowed to challenge provisions within the bill that they feel violate the rules of reconciliation, also known as the Bryd rules. The Senate Parliamentarian will make the final determination on what language passes the test and can remain in the bill. That process is expected to happen over the next week to ten days. Once through the Bryd-bath, the ENR text will be joined with the other committee reconciliation texts and be voted on by the full Senate. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) has stated that he would like the Senate to vote on the reconciliation bill by July 4, 2025.

The National Mining Association will continue to work with the Senate ENR, and House and Senate leadership to push for the enactment of provisions in reconciliation important to the future of coal mining.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Russell at rrussell@nma.org or Justin Prosser at jprosser@nma.org.