

THE CO-LOCATION ENERGY ACT

U.S. Senators John Curtis (R-UT) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO)



THE PROBLEM: The development of wind and solar energy will help strengthen America's energy independence. However, renewable energy projects face significant challenges with land acquisition, high infrastructure costs, and complex permitting processes—which slow development and increase expenses.

The ***Co-Location Energy Act***—bipartisan legislation authored by Senators Curtis and Hickenlooper—takes a forward-thinking approach to unlock renewable energy potential. By allowing wind and solar projects to be co-located on existing federal energy leases, the legislation provides a streamlined framework for developers to evaluate and build projects on already-disturbed federal lands with the consent of the current leaseholder.

BILL SPECIFICS:

The legislation directs the Department of the Interior (DOI) to:

- 1. Authorize the Evaluation and Development of Renewable Energy on Existing Leases:** Renewable energy developers can evaluate and, with leaseholder consent, construct solar and wind projects on oil, gas, coal, and geothermal leased areas.
- 2. Assess for Categorical Exclusions:** DOI must analyze whether wind and solar production could qualify for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), responsibly expediting the permitting process.

The ***Co-Location Energy Act*** ensures that renewable projects proceed only with the consent of current leaseholders while making practical use of federal lands for enhanced energy production.

For more information or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Leah Schaefer at Leah_Schaefer@curtis.senate.gov