

# August 2022 Federal Policy Update

APII tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of August 2022. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between July 25, 2022 and August 26, 2022.

1. **[H.R.8294](#) (related bill: [S.4670](#)) - **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023. Sponsored by Rep. David E. Price (D-NC-04).**
  - This bill contains FY2023 appropriations to several federal departments and agencies that are key to Indian Country. Appropriations include but are not limited to the following:
    - \$1.7 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation for water development and restoration agreements with Tribes, states, and local governments.
    - \$22.5 million to the Department of Treasury for CDFIs serving Indian Country.
    - \$1.3 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency for Clean Air Act grants to states and Tribes.
  - Received in the Senate on July 26, 2022.**
  
2. **[H.Res.1271](#) - **Of inquiry requesting the President transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration relating to broadband service. Sponsored by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-08).****

  - This resolution requests that the President provide, within 14 days, certain information and documents concerning specified broadband connectivity programs and related activities carried out by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. One of the programs identified in the resolution is the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.
  - Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 26, 2022.

  
3. **[H.R.5768](#) - **VICTIM Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Val Butler Demmings (D-FL-10).****

  - This bill directs the Department of Justice to establish a grant program for state, Tribal, or local law enforcement agencies or prosecuting offices (or groups of Tribal agencies or offices) to establish, implement, and administer violent incident clearance and technological investigative methods.
  - Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 345 on July 26, 2022.

  
4. **[H.R.8450](#) - **Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act. Sponsored by Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA-03).****

  - This bill would reauthorize child nutrition programs such as the WIC program. It would also establish the Tribally Operated Meal and Snack Project. This pilot

project would award grants that administer, operate, or implement school lunch programs, summer food programs, or other child and adult care food programs.

- Mark-up session held in the House Committee on Education and Labor on July 27, 2022.

5. **[H.R.7776](#) - Water Resources Development Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR-04).**

- This bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out activities concerning water resources development projects, water supply and wastewater infrastructure, flood control, navigation, or ecosystem restoration, such as shoreline restoration. This bill would make Tribes eligible for assistance to plan for flood hazards, to avoid repetitive flooding impacts, to anticipate, prepare, and adapt to changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events, and to withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruption due to flood hazards. It would also establish Tribal liaisons in each district containing a Tribal community.
- Passed the Senate and sent back to the House on July 28, 2022.

6. **[H.R.8673](#) - NEST Act. Sponsored by Raul Ruiz (D-CA-36).**

- This act would establish scholarship programs for educators of Indian students and Indian educators. It would establish the Indian Educator Scholarship Program as well as the Indian Educator Graduate Fellowship Program. This bill would also provide for loan forgiveness for educators working in Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools and local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students.
- Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor on August 5, 2022.

7. **[H.R.5376](#) - Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Sponsored by John A. Yarmuth (D-KY-03).**

- This bill makes numerous amendments among various economic sectors as well as substantial investments in energy security and the protection of natural resources. The bill includes but is not limited to the following Tribal-specific funding:
  - \$220 million for BIA Tribal Climate Resilience and Adaptation programs.
  - \$145.5 million for Tribal Electrification
  - Climate resilience and adaptation activities for the Native Hawaiian community.
  - Additional funding for Tribal energy development.
- Signed into law as Public Law No. 117-169 on August 16, 2022.

8. **[H.R. 8719](#) - Great Bend of the Gila Conservation Act. Sponsored by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ-03).**

- This bill would establish the Great Bend of the Gila National Conservation Area and the Palo Verde National Conservation Area. The purposes of the Conservation Areas are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and

enjoyment of present and future generations the Indigenous ancestral, archaeological, cultural, historic, geologic, hydrologic, natural, recreational, educational, and scenic resources of the Conservation Areas.

- Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on August 16, 2022.

**9. [S.4654](#) - Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act. Sponsored by Sen. Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH).**

- This bill would amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably on August 3, 2022.

**10. [S.2616](#) - Livable Communities Act of 2021. Sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).**

- This bill would strengthen rural, suburban, and urban economies by enabling communities to establish goals for the future and to chart a course for achieving such goals. Tribes would be eligible for planning grants to make investments in housing, transportation, environmental, and resiliency projects in and for the benefit of historically disadvantaged or underserved minority and low-income communities.
- Hearing held in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on August 4, 2022.

**11. [S.4771](#) - Tribal Energy Investment Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV).**

- This bill would amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to provide for direct loans to Indian tribes and tribal energy development organizations for energy development.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on August 4, 2022.