



*Next week will be short and quiet on the Hill due to the 4th of July recess, so we'll spare your inbox and skip the client note. Happy Independence Day!*

**Client Note: Congress Heads Home for July 4th**

**Congress' Agenda Leading Up to August**

Congress is out this week and next for the July 4th recess, and even the administration is getting out of town - [President Biden was in Chicago](#) to sell his economic vision (“Bidenomics”) and [DOE Secretary Granholm](#) is taking an EV-powered road trip across the “Southern battery belt” to talk up clean energy investments. As a result, much of DC is on pause (excluding the Supreme Court, which yesterday took the extreme, if expected, step to [end affirmative action in college admissions](#)), so we’re focusing on what to expect for the next few months as well as a roundup of articles that caught our eye.

As we’ve discussed before, a significant amount of work must be done this summer. Government appropriations, the Farm Bill, NDAA, and FAA must all be dealt with (in one way or another) by September 30. But the Senate only has 31 session days and the House only 24 session days currently scheduled before that deadline - see the calendar below, which will play a crucial role in how these items get handled. In the past month, we’ve seen far-right Republicans shut down the House floor, and anxiety is rising about what that means for Congress’ long to-do list.

## PIONEER 2023 Congressional Calendar



**What We’re Reading**

There's an increasingly strong political focus on [Chinese corporations' ownership of U.S. farmland](#), including in discussions around the Farm Bill. This article does one of the best jobs we've seen of laying out the story of where Chinese-owned land is, how it's used, and how it compares to other countries' holdings (e.g., China's 380,000 acres vs Canada's 12.8 million acres).

In 2022, U.S. energy sector jobs [grew by 3.8 percent](#) from the previous year—adding nearly 300,000 to the workforce. The data shows a 71% recovery of jobs lost in 2020 due to the pandemic. Now at around 8.1 million total, last year’s growth outpaced all workforce growth in 2022, showing how the labor market is responding to massive investments and technological innovations in this space.

A [recent study suggests](#) that long-term exposure to greenery [could add an average of 2.5 years to your life expectancy](#). It underscores the importance of both conservation and transitioning the nation to more sustainable forms of energy.

Legendary innovator John Goodenough [died earlier this week](#) at 100, famous for making continuous transformations and improvements to the lithium-ion battery, which eventually earned him a Nobel Prize—the oldest to do so.

The DOE [released an analysis](#) of offshore wind energy opportunities in the Great Lakes region, suggesting potential energy would exceed annual electric power needs of a majority of bordering states. While facing technical challenges, the transition to clean energy promises a revitalized economy and environment for Great Lakes residents.

[The longevity of solar proves itself yet again](#) as Texas residents try to stay cool in the triple-digit heat wave. While Texas lawmakers continue to push for increased natural gas infrastructure, renewable energy in the form of solar continues to keep them cool when natural gas cannot.

[A recent story in the New Yorker](#) discusses how economist Isabella Weber's price control policy ideas received strong backlash in 2021 but are now increasingly adopted by Germany and other democratic nations following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its impact on global energy markets.

Contrary to the view that rooftop solar is a small and unpredictable source of energy, [its expansion in New England](#) is proving to be an effective way to offset the grid’s reliance on fossil fuels, including during the important gas-restricted, cold months of winter.

### **Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)**

This week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [launched](#) a \$7 billion grant competition, “Solar for All”. Created by the IRA’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the program will provide funding to expand existing low-income solar programs to increase access to affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy. The EPA intends to issue up to 60 awards to eligible states, territories, tribal governments, municipalities, and eligible nonprofits.

In addition, DOE [released](#) a notice of intent to invest \$2 billion for the [Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants Program](#) in Q3 of this year. Created through the IRA, this FOA will support the domestic production of electric vehicles, including efficient hybrid, plug-in electric hybrid, plug-in electric drive, and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.

Lastly, if you are interested in applying for the [\\$50 million FOA for Clean Energy Projects in Rural Communities](#), which makes between \$500,000 and \$5 million in grant funding available to a wide range of energy technologies with no-cost sharing requirement, pre-applications are [due](#) by July 13.

For a list of other funding opportunities in this space, please see [this memo](#).

### **Clients in the News**

[Climate Power](#), in coordination with Clean Energy for America (CE4A), Elemental Excelsior, and [Breakthrough Energy](#) hosted a [virtual panel discussion](#) yesterday with DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm, DOE Loan Programs Office Director Jigar Shah, and clean energy executives. In it, they released the [Strategic Communications Guidebook](#), a resource for any clean energy company looking to craft and execute strategies to communicate their impact.

[Charm Industrial](#) CEO Peter Reinhardt [discussed](#) the importance of transparency in delivering trustworthy carbon removal.

### **Where in the World is Pioneer?**

[Sweta Chakraborty](#), Partner at Pioneer, was in Copenhagen at the Global Fashion Agenda conference this week speaking about the fashion industry's transition to a sustainable future.

Pioneer's Climate Finance Director, [Cassie Rowlands](#), attended the GreenFin conference in Boston. [HASI](#) and [ReSurety](#) spoke on a panel about calculating marginal emissions. The discussion will soon be available as an episode of HASI's [Climate Positive](#) podcast.

This week, [Cassie](#) also hosted the second [Women in Climate Investing and Finance](#) D.C. event alongside PNC Bank. The event drew 80 attendees and included a [panel](#) on Women in Sustainable Banking. Contact Cassie ([cassie@pioneerpublicaffairs.com](mailto:cassie@pioneerpublicaffairs.com)) if you're interested in learning more, or joining a future event.

The CE4A Action Launch happy hour will be held Thursday, July 13th at 5:30 p.m. ET in Washington, DC. It is hosted by Sol Systems, New Columbia Solar, CleanCapital and Pioneer Partner [Alex McDonough](#) among others. Please RSVP for this event [here](#).

[www.pioneerpublicaffairs.com](http://www.pioneerpublicaffairs.com)

