



Pioneer is hosting the kickoff event for the new D.C. chapter of [Women in Climate Investing and Finance](#), a group that brings together women from all backgrounds working to fight climate change through effective use of capital. Register [here](#) for the event this Tuesday April 25, and join us and [Arpita Bhattacharyya](#), the new Chief Climate Officer at DOE's Loan Programs Office, for an evening on the rooftop terrace of our new offices at 700 Pennsylvania Ave SE!

Client note: Debt Limit Standoff Heads to the House Floor

McCarthy shows his hand and puts the IRA on the chopping block: The debt ceiling standoff will enter a new phase next week, but one still seemingly ages away from conclusion. House Speaker McCarthy plans to bring a bill to the floor on Wednesday or Thursday that will lift the debt ceiling until no later than March 31, 2024. It would make draconian cuts to the federal budget, repealing the clean energy tax credits of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and other drastic changes to federal policy designed to court the far right of his caucus.

While press reports indicate that McCarthy doesn't yet have 218 yes votes locked in, we cannot overstate how important it is for his Speakership to get there.

Given all the divisions that exist in the House GOP landscape, Leadership has to sell its caucus on the message that this bill is only a tactical move to improve its negotiating posture with the White House and the contents of the bill don't really matter because it ultimately won't become law. Republican lobbyists around town are telling their anxious clients not to worry about the attacks in McCarthy's bill. This is what moderate Republicans – think of the 18 who hold seats in Biden-won districts – will have to hang their hats on. Adding to the pressure for these Republicans to vote with McCarthy will be House leadership saying that any Member voting against the bill can forget about their legislative priorities for the rest of the Congress.

But, this is very much a choose-your-own-narrative moment. The Freedom Caucus members – many of whom have never voted for a debt limit increase in their careers – are being asked by a man they truly dislike to go against all the deficit demagoguery that is a hallmark of their political brand. That is a tall order, but that is why the bill has so many extreme policy provisions. (As an aside, we think President Biden is likely announcing his plans to run for reelection next week, which could serve as a unifying factor for House Republicans.)

This process reminds us of how things played out with Republicans during their attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2017. Back then, every Republican had committed to repealing the law, but nobody could agree on what should replace it. But, in order to “move the process along” every Republican voted for repeal, while simultaneously disavowing the real-life consequences of it becoming law, with millions of Americans losing health insurance and increased costs for millions more. In the end, Republicans were never able to agree on an ACA alternative and their efforts went up in flames when former Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) memorably gave the thumbs down motion on the Senate floor.

If the bill passes, McCarthy’s hand will be stronger after next week, at least for a while. The following week, the House is in recess, and so we would expect earnest negotiations with the White House could begin as soon as the week of May 8. The alternative – the McCarthy bill failing next week – would punch such a massive hole in the GOP leverage it’s hard to envision how things would move forward.

Solar tariff waiver CRA votes - next steps

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee [voted](#) (26-13) to advance H.J. Res. 39, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution that rescind’s President Biden’s 24-month pause on solar panel circumvention tariffs. The tariffs would have been imposed in response to a company’s petition alleging that companies operating in Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam were circumventing U.S. tariffs on solar panels from China.

Republicans emphasized the need to hold China accountable for its actions and reduce its dominance in the solar industry. Democrats repeatedly referred to Biden’s temporary halt of solar tariffs as a bridge meant to support the domestic solar industry’s growth in the short-term, while domestic manufacturers continue to build out capacity to meet rising demands. Only one Democrat present voted with all of the Republicans in favor of the CRA, but two of the resolution’s Democratic cosponsors were absent and were expected to vote yes. All other Democrats voted no. H.J. Res. 39 will move to the House floor as soon as next week, and the Senate is expected to take it up shortly after House passage.

This week’s hearings

Last week, we previewed a long list of hearings happening this week on the Hill. Congress held multiple oversight hearings (FTC, SEC, IRA) and continued its foray into Farm Bill priorities, covering the conservation and nutrition titles. The attached summary of key hearings from this week shed light on lawmakers’ priorities returning from the long April recess. We fully expect the agency oversight and IRA attacks to continue – more to come.

DOE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

This week, the Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) a \$30 million funding opportunity for projects addressing challenges and opportunities for grid planning, specifically to enable solar energy to be better integrated and utilized. DOE expects to make 9-13 awards ranging between \$2-4 million to universities and national labs, industry partners, and transmission and distribution utilities and Independent System Operators. Concept papers and full applications are due [here](#) on June 5 and August 15, respectively.

For more information on available FOAs coming out of DOE, please see [this memo](#).

EPA Green Bank announcement

The IRA created the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (commonly referred to as the “Green Bank”), housed within EPA. Details on how the Green Bank would operate have been highly anticipated, given that EPA must spend the funds by September 30, 2024, and given that EPA really hasn’t handled such a program in the past. [Details](#) were released this week – here’s what we know:

The EPA will provide grants to eligible states, tribes, territories, municipalities, and nonprofit entities, and those grantees will ultimately provide the financial assistance to communities. EPA will not provide grants directly to projects.

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will be implemented via 3 grant competitions:

1. \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund competition will fund 2-3 national nonprofits that will partner with private capital providers to deliver financing for clean energy projects.
2. \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator competition will fund 2-7 hub nonprofits with the plans and capabilities to rapidly build the clean financing capacity of specific networks of public, quasi-public, and non-profit community lenders—such as community development financial institutions (including Native CDFIs), credit unions, green banks, housing finance agencies, minority depository institutions, etc.
3. \$7 billion Solar for All competition will provide up to 60 grants to States, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for investment in residential and community solar.

EPA intends to issue notice of funding opportunities “early summer 2023,” with applications closing in the fall and final awards announced in early 2024.

Pioneer and Clients in the news

[Principal Joe Britton](#) was quoted [in this Politico article](#), discussing the Biden Administration’s efforts to accelerate domestic manufacturing and the adoption of EVs.

[Harris Cohn of Charm Industrial](#) participated in a [panel discussion](#) on the role that innovative agricultural systems can play in combating climate change.

To celebrate Earth Day, [Neutral Foods](#) is [asking](#) Americans, such as [Partner Sweta Chakraborty](#), “Why do you believe the planet is worth saving?”

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