



Fait-Religieux

Sportsmen's bill passes, gives \$10M to public lands for hunting, fishing, preservation

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The House in December also passed a broad package of energy policy changes that includes provisions to ease impediments to pipeline permitting and energy exports, but its prospects were clouded by a White House veto threat and loss of much its Democratic support as measures with less bipartisan support were added during committee and floor action.

API thanked the Senate for approving a bill that will enhance America's energy future. The bill streamlines the natural gas export permit application process, ensures natural gas pipelines are permitted more efficiently - which could lower prices for consumers in places like New England - and promotes job diversity in the energy industry.

Senators revived debate on the bill Tuesday after it was delayed for more than two months amid a partisan dispute over an emergency measure to help fix and replace lead-contaminated pipes in Flint, Michigan.

The bill is now expected to head to a conference committee with the U.S. House of Representatives, to reconcile the Senate and House versions of the bill. The two laws aimed to boost USA energy independence by cutting reliance on imported oil, boosting fuel economy standards for cars and imposing a mandate for ethanol in gasoline. She spoke in favor of the bill's *power* to save money and energy, as well as helping the United States become "an energy superpower".

The bill also would update building codes to increase efficiency, strengthen electric-grid safety standards and reauthorize a half-billion dollar conservation fund that protects parks and other public lands. Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, involves injecting water mixed with sand and chemicals into underground rock formations, allowing oil and gas to flow.

Environmental policy analyst Peter Van Doren of the Cato Institute told The Christian Science Monitor by phone that the reason this bill had passed was less due to genuine goodwill than the success of each side's agenda.

The Sierra Club, the nation's largest environmental group, said the bill would "boost dirty fossil fuels" such as coal and natural gas and encourage "dangerous nuclear projects" while undermining Obama's Clean *Power* Plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., chairman of the House energy panel, also was optimistic. "I'm pleased the Senate has overwhelmingly agreed to provide needed flexibility to the Alaska gasline project, open up greater access to federal lands for our sportsmen, and boost multiple hydropower projects in our state", Murkowski said. The Senate vote brought Congress "one step closer to embracing policies that say yes to energy", he said.