

S. 1857, THE FEDERAL ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE ACT OF 2019

Leadership of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) including Alliance Honorary Advisor Chairman Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Ranking Member Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) introduced legislation that would re-establish federal leadership in energy and water conservation on June 13, 2019. Sens. Murkowski and Manchin teamed up with longtime energy efficiency champions Alliance Honorary Chair Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Vice-Chair Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Sens. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) to introduce **S. 1857, the Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2019**, which would re-instate forward-looking targets for agencies to reduce energy and water intensity within federal buildings also formally authorize the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) within the Department of Energy (DOE). The legislation would help to raise the profile of the critical energy-water nexus. The bill received an ENR Energy subcommittee hearing on July 9. The full ENR committee is slated to mark up the legislation on July 16.

SUMMARY

The Federal Energy and Water Management Act would improve the energy and water efficiency of the federal government—the nation’s top energy consumer—in several ways. By formally authorizing FEMP, the bill would clarify federal jurisdiction and responsibilities of the office, which has existed since 1975. FEMP would be responsible for cross-agency collaboration and technical planning assistance to implement agency sustainability goals, including energy and water management, federal performance contract procurement, and data collection and reporting. The bill would also re-establish federal leadership by re-instating forward-looking energy and water consumption goals.

The legislation requires agencies to begin implementing all energy and water conservation measures identified to be life-cycle cost-effective to the maximum extent practicable in order to meet energy and water performance goals, beginning in FY 2020. The targets, which slightly modify and extend those that expired at the end of FY 2015, require agencies to reduce energy use intensity (EUI) by 2.5 percent annually for 10 years, resulting in a 25 percent decrease by FY 2030, compared to the EUI of an agency’s federal buildings in FY 2018. Agency water use intensity (WUI) would be reduced by 2 percent annually from 2020 through 2030, for a target reduction of 54 percent, compared to that in FY 2007. Since [Executive Order 13834](#) revoked [sustainability targets established under E.O. 13693](#), no specific forward-looking energy targets exist for federal buildings. S. 1857 would raise also amend the energy management requirements of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act ([42 U.S.C. 8253](#)) to add “and Water” after each mention of energy. The energy-water nexus represents an opportunity to harvest synergistic gains in both energy and water efficiency. Because it takes substantial amounts of water to produce energy resources and generate most electricity, and significant amounts of energy to pump, transport, and treat water, each should be addressed together, rather than in isolation. The bill would require the Secretary of Energy to review the results of the performance targets and to issue a recommendation to Congress for requirements for fiscal years 2031 through 2040.