



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum For America's Ideas

NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2019 Capitol Forum | Dec. 10 – 12

JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort
5350 E. Marriott Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85054

**NCSL Standing Committee on
Natural Resources and Infrastructure**

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NCSL STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEMBERS

Updated Dec. 3, 2019

NCSL’s Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee is one of nine NCSL Standing Committees. These committees are vital to NCSL’s successful representation of state interests in Washington, D.C., and the facilitation of policy innovation among state and territorial legislatures. Please contact any of the committee staff for details about the committee, state-federal policies under its jurisdiction, or upcoming meetings and events.

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Senator Elaine S. Bowers, Kansas
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Legislative Staff Vice Chairs:

Matt Becker, Colorado
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Tuesday, Dec. 10	
<p>7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. <i>Grand Sonoran A-B</i></p>	<p>Autonomous Vehicles Preconference Learn about the impact of driverless vehicles on mobility for people with disabilities, state efforts to develop partnerships with industry, public opinions regarding driverless technology, and differing state regulatory models for testing and operating autonomous vehicles. This preconference, which convenes state legislative transportation leaders and legislative staff from across the country, national experts and industry leaders, is sponsored by AAA Arizona, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Reason Foundation.</p> <p>Contact NCSL Staff, Douglas Shinkle (douglas.shinkle@ncsl.org) for more information.</p>
<p>2-3:15 p.m. <i>Grand Sonoran G</i></p>	<p>Running on Empty: Alternatives to the Gas Tax It’s an open secret the gas tax is running on fumes, due to decreased purchasing power and increased vehicle fuel economy. States are exploring alternative funding and financing options, including road usage charges, tolling, enhanced vehicle registration fees and public-private partnerships to build and operate large transportation projects. Hear an overview of transportation funding trends and learn firsthand about trend-setting state initiatives, as well as federal programs that can support state innovation.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Andrew McLean, NRI Committee Co-Chair, Maine <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brauch Feigenbaum, assistant director of transportation policy, Reason Foundation • James Whitty, partner, D’Artagnan Consulting LLP

<p>3:30-4:45 p.m. <i>Pinnacle Peak 2</i></p>	<p>States’ New Economic Development Tool: Opportunity Zones The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act created a new federal incentive intended to trigger economic development in economically disadvantaged and undercapitalized communities. Learn about this federal initiative and how to best take advantage of its potential to stimulate designated areas in your state.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Higgins, program director, The Governance Project • Greg LeRoy, executive director, Good Jobs First
<p>5:30 – 7:00 p.m. <i>Ballroom Lawn</i></p>	<p>Reception Don’t miss this opportunity to network with your colleagues from across the nation.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Dec. 11</p>	
<p>7:30-8:45 a.m. <i>Grand Sonoran G</i></p>	<p>Speeding Up Efforts to Deploy Broadband States have an ardent interest in ensuring all their residents enjoy internet access and increased broadband speeds, and that rural and small-town Americans are not left behind. Explore state and federal efforts to close the digital divide, including how to map broadband access.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Bragg, vice president government relations, Georgia Electronic Membership Corporation • Laurel Leverrier, deputy assistant administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture • Clay Purvis, Vermont Department of Public Service • Jay Schwarz, vice president public policy, Comcast <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NCSL gratefully acknowledges the Conference of State Bank Supervisors for its support of this breakfast.</i></p>
<p>9:00-10:15 a.m. <i>Pinnacle Peak 1</i></p>	<p>Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee Business Meeting All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the Business Meeting and consider Policy Directives and Resolutions that will guide the NRI Committee’s advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration. Join us as the committee debates and votes on policies that guide the Committee’s advocacy work in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Presiding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Stephen Handy, NRI Committee Co-Chair, Utah

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Andrew McLean, NRI Committee Co-Chair, Maine
12:00 – 1:45 p.m. <i>Grand Sonoran E-F</i>	<p>General Session Lunch – Prescription Drugs: What Can States Do?</p> <p>Prescription drugs provide lifesaving treatments and help control diseases and debilitating conditions. They also present legislators with challenges, including the affordability of some of the new groundbreaking drugs for Medicaid patients and state employees. Hear panelists highlight a range of prescription drug policy issues and share promising initiatives, challenges faced, and lessons learned.</p>
2:00-3:15 p.m. <i>Grand Sonoran G</i>	<p>Sharing the Cost of Disasters: State and Federal Spending</p> <p>Hear from federal and state experts on the how disaster spending is shared between levels of government, and how mitigation measures can save everyone money at a time when disaster costs are increasing.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Colker, vice president of innovation, International Code Council • Joel Doolin, associate administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency • Colin Foard, associate manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. <i>Grand Sonoran G</i>	<p>More Daylight? States Examine Changes to the Biannual Time Switch</p> <p>Switching permanently to daylight saving time is trending in state legislatures. Eight states have recently enacted legislation to make the switch if and when federal law allows, and 36 state legislatures debated the issue this year—the most since NCSL began tracking the topic five years ago. Congress is deliberating the switch to DST, while some states are considering staying on standard time, which is authorized by federal law. Explore the multiple policy angles involved in this timely issue.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Reed, group director, National Conference of State Legislatures • Professor Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University • Representative Raymond P. Ward, Utah • Scott Yates, #LockTheClock
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. <i>Sunset Lawn</i>	<p>Reception</p> <p>Don't miss this opportunity to network with your colleagues from across the nation.</p>
<p>Thursday, Dec. 12</p>	

<p>8:30 – 10:00 a.m. <i>Grand Sonoran E-F</i></p>	<p>General Session Breakfast – 100 Years of the NFL: Leadership Lessons on and off the Field As the NFL celebrates its 100th year, Michael Bidwill, president of Arizona Cardinals Football Club, provides his perspective on the league and its history, along with his view of the leadership qualities that made the league what it is today.</p>
<p>10:15-10:45 a.m <i>Grand Sonoran E-F</i></p>	<p>NCSL Capitol Forum Business Meeting All legislators and legislative staff are encouraged to attend the annual business meeting to consider policy directives and resolutions that will guide NCSL’s advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration. Each state has one vote. All Capitol Forum attendees are welcome to observe.</p>

NCSL Staff Contacts:

<p align="center">Ben Husch Federal Affairs Counsel Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee Washington, DC ben.husch@ncsl.org Cell: 609-947-0964</p>	<p align="center">Kristen Hildreth Sr. Policy Specialist Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee Washington, DC kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org Cell: 202-412-6872</p>	<p align="center">Jennifer Schultz Program Principal Environment, Energy & Transportation Program Denver, CO jennifer.schultz@ncsl.org Cell: 610-506-0246</p>
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NRI COMMITTEE ONLINE RESOURCES

Updated November 26, 2019



The NCSL Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee (NRI) is pleased to notify you of our updated website, where you can find up-to-date committee information and resources at any time.

- [**COMMITTEE HOMEPAGE**](#): Overview page for the NRI Committee including links to specific resource pages (listed below) and timely news alerts.
- [**COMMITTEE POLICIES**](#): All state-federal policies that have been approved by the committee, used for NCSL’s advocacy in Washington, D.C.
- [**NRI COMMITTEE AND CONGRESS**](#): Regularly updated collection of letters and testimonies sent to the U.S. Congress, related to NRI Committee policy.
- [**NEWSLETTERS**](#): Bi-monthly newsletter covering agriculture, energy, environment and transportation issues *as well as* two monthly state-federal policy newsletters on transportation (the Transporter) and energy (Plugged In).
- [**INFO ALERTS & ARCHIVES**](#): A one-stop-shop for all NRI Committee-related info alerts (concise informational briefs on breaking news of interest to our committee).
- [**MEETING RESOURCES**](#): Information from recent NCSL meetings—including agendas, presentations from our sessions (when available) and other resources of interest—plus details about upcoming events.
- **NATURAL RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE BILL-TRACKING DATABASES**: A series of up-to-date databases that track legislation introduced in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico:
 - [**ENERGY**](#)
 - [**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**](#)
 - [**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**](#)
 - [**TRANSPORTATION**](#)

NCSL NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Pinnacle Peak 1

- Overview & Review of Procedures
- Consideration of (*listed in order of consideration*):
 - New Policy Resolutions
 - Proposed Amendments to Existing Policy Directives

POLICY SUMMARIES

The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee will consider the following policy directives and resolutions at the 2019 Capitol Forum:

Proposed Policy Resolutions

Saving America's Pollinators: This is a new policy resolution proposed by Rep. Rick Hansen of Minnesota urging Congress to pass and sign into law the Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2019, which will provide urgent and necessary regulatory restrictions and review of certain pesticides for their toxicity to pollinators.

Offshore Drilling: This is a new policy resolution proposed by Del. Fraser-Hidalgo of Maryland calling upon the President to and the Department of Interior to immediately halt the processing of permits for oil and gas exploration in all coasts; to establish a moratorium on all future leasing to expand oil and gas exploration, production and drilling in all coasts; and to maintain the regulatory enforcement of standards and oversight of existing and future offshore drilling activities established following the BP Deepwater Horizon accident.

Wildlife Corridors: This is a new policy resolution proposed by Sen. Mimi Stewart of New Mexico encouraging the President and Congress to establish a national system to implement and promote wildlife corridors and crossings similar to that of the federal Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019.

Proposed Amendments to Existing Policy Directives

Animal Agriculture Production: This is an existing policy directive with an amendment proposed by Rep. Mark Meek of Oregon, to strike lines 25-54, "Equine Industry and USDA Inspection of Horse Meat," and replace with substitute language.