

Good news: Proposed rule reducing requirements for protections for emergency responders defeated in court. Letter from States Attorneys General:

https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/states_comments_on_accidental_release_prevention_requirements.pdf

Comment period closed but the States Attorneys General opposed it in court and won.

Coming Up: Rollback of Obama's Clean Power Plan. Trump plan to deregulate power plants by reducing allowed emissions. Trump announced August 21st. Comments not open yet -

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-affordable-clean-energy-ace-rule>

Analysis -

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brianpotts/2018/08/22/whats-actually-in-president-trumps-diet-clean-power-plan/#73be8fde3539> and

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/new-trump-power-plant-plan-would-release-hundreds-of-millions-of-tons-of-co2-into-the-air/2018/08/18/be823078-a28e-11e8-83d2-70203b8d7b44_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5891236d30ec

Kavanaugh Nomination: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has scheduled confirmation hearings on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh to begin Sept. 4th. This appointment would be disastrous for numerous reasons, not the least of which the Senate has not seen the totality of his pre-nomination writings. Please sign these petition to encourage Senators to reject the Kavanaugh nomination.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-the-senate-stop-brett-kavanaugh>

https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/tell-your-senators-stop.fb52?source=s.fb.ty&r_by=7115364

EPA: Three items.

1. **Comment on the comment period itself** for rolling back Obama-era fuel emissions. **Why this is important** - something having this much impact on consumers, industry and the environment needs a lengthy comment period. <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283-0001>

“The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are proposing to amend certain existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and tailpipe carbon dioxide emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks and establish new standards, all covering model years 2021 through 2026. More specifically, for the EPA program, EPA is proposing to amend its carbon dioxide emissions standards for model years 2021 through 2025 because they are no longer appropriate and reasonable and establishing new standards for model year 2026. The preferred alternative is to retain the model year 2020 standards for both programs through model year 2026, but comment is sought on a range of alternatives.

2. **EPA Proposed Changes to Fuel Standards** - This is the actual change. ”The Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks”

“The SAFE Vehicles Rule, if finalized, would amend certain existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and tailpipe carbon dioxide emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks and establish new standards, all covering model years 2021 through 2026.”

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/24/2018-16820/the-safer-affordable-fuel-efficient-safe-vehicles-rule-for-model-years-2021-2026-passenger-cars-and>

or <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283-0756>

3. EPA proposed changes to tail-pipe emissions reporting on the state level.

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0707-0030>

Public hearings: #CleanCarStandards hearings expected in LA, D.C., and Detroit. [@EENewsUpdates](http://bit.ly/2vhO6YG)

Trump tariffs - comment period open,, closes Sept. 5.

<https://www.proag.com/news/u-s-may-raise-import-tariffs-to-25/>

<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/june/ustr-issues-tariffs-chinese-products> This page lists the main document and exclusion requests - there are thousands in the different tariff folders <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USTR-2018-0025>

This tariff on intellectual property and technology transfer closes Aug. 17, though the page also says Sept. 6. <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USTR-2018-0026-0001>

and this one October 9 <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USTR-2018-0025-0001>

US Dept of Education proposed removing gainful employment rule as applied to for-profit colleges. Comment period closes Sept. 13. More info here:

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Education-Dept-Proposes/244238> “The rule, first proposed by the Obama administration in 2011, would have penalized programs if their graduates had student-loan payments that exceeded a specific percentage of their incomes. It was controversial from Day 1, especially among for-profit colleges, who pointed to analyses arguing that the sector would be disproportionately affected.” In other words, colleges with 17% employment rate for graduates could be affected. There was a hearing earlier this year (where I got the stats) - more on that here, including transcript: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2017/index.html>

comment here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/14/2018-17531/program-integrity-gainful-employment>

HUD proposed rule - 30 Day Notice Minority and Women Inclusion" Information Collection for OMB Approval. Deadline Aug. 29.(think Ben Carson’s agenda) ““HUD appears to be thinking about how to create loopholes to avoid findings of disparate impact, a standard that says discrimination, regardless of intent, is illegal. It’s an important standard and the law is clear and settled. The Supreme Court affirmed the disparate impact standard in 2015. It looks like HUD wants to get around that decision and figure out how to allow discrimination in some cases. That’s a terrible and shocking idea. There’s no reason to touch the rule or introduce loopholes, confusion or uncertainty into a standard that is clear.”

More info: <https://nrc.org/the-trump-administration-reconsiders-the-disparate-impact-rule/>

Comment

<https://www.fhfa.gov/SupervisionRegulation/Rules/Pages/30-day-Notice-of-Submission-of-Minority-and-Women-Inclusion-Information-Collection-for-OMB-Approval.aspx>

Bureau of Land Management Fracking - Notice of Intent for Potential Amendment to the Resource Management Plan for the Bakersfield Field Office, California, and To Prepare an Associated Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement - in other words, proposal to allow fracking on land managed by BLM.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/08/2018-16957/notice-of-intent-for-potential-amendment-to-the-resource-management-plan-for-the-bakersfield-field>

Women's Health Gag Rule - Senators ask for extension of comment period.

<http://nhlabornews.com/2018/07/senators-send-letter-to-trump-to-extend-comment-period-on-global-gag-rule/> Women's Health Gag Rule:

Donald Trump has said from day one he wants to control women. With a new gag rule, he and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar are now trying to make it official government policy.

The gag rule is an attempt to take away women's basic rights. Period. The Trump-Pence administration's new rule would block patients from care at Planned Parenthood. It would also prohibit medical providers across the country from being able to refer their patients for safe, legal abortion. Submit comment here:

<https://www.weareplannedparenthoodaction.org/onlineactions/yOKxyIomxUO-EFoTcvQbHg2>

Engangered species - three comment links at bottom of this page on three different regulations.

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html More info at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/07/19/endangered-species-act-stripped-of-key-provisions-in-trump-administration-proposal/?utm_term=.809978ca1b43

If you hit a paywall, close your browser, delete cookies and try again. Firefox deletes tracking, so it's a fresh start each time you open your browser.

Direct comment here on **endangered species and habitat**

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0006-0001>

Endangered Plants and Wildlife

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0007>

Fish and Wildlife Interagency cooperation:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0009>

RIN (1024-AE38) Comment on changes to **sport hunting and fishing** extended to September 6, 2018

[https://www.regulations.gov/searchResults?rpp=25&po=0&s=RIN%2B\(1024-AE38\)%2BNPS&fp=true&ns=true](https://www.regulations.gov/searchResults?rpp=25&po=0&s=RIN%2B(1024-AE38)%2BNPS&fp=true&ns=true) More info here:

<https://intheshadowofthewolf.com/2018/05/22/interior-moves-to-lift-restrictions-on-hunting-bears-wolves/>

Extending Medicaid provisions : SThese are by state. Some have comments open - usual time period is one month. Those with open comments are at the top of the list.

<https://public.medicaid.gov/connect.ti/public.comments/whatsNew>

Changes to how Medicare Reimburses doctors and hospitals - comment accepted until September 10th. Drs penalized for treating & spending more time managing patients w//chronicillness Rheumatologists among Drs to be hit hard! **Comment period** 7/27 - 9/10

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2018-0076-0621>

More info here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/22/us/politics/medicare-payments-trump.html>