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Recent Developments in U.S. Climate Law and Policy

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CLIMATE SCIENCE
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



Silencing Science Tracker

The Silencing Science Tracker is a joint initiative of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and the [Climate Science Legal Defense Fund](#) . It tracks government attempts to restrict or prohibit scientific research, education or discussion, or the publication or use of scientific information, since the November 2016 election. [Read more](#) about the tracker and [related resources](#). Please contact Olivia Guarna (ong2107@columbia.edu) or Dana Willbanks (dwillbanks@csldf.org) to recommend relevant media reports we may have missed or provide responses or corrections to media reports we have included.

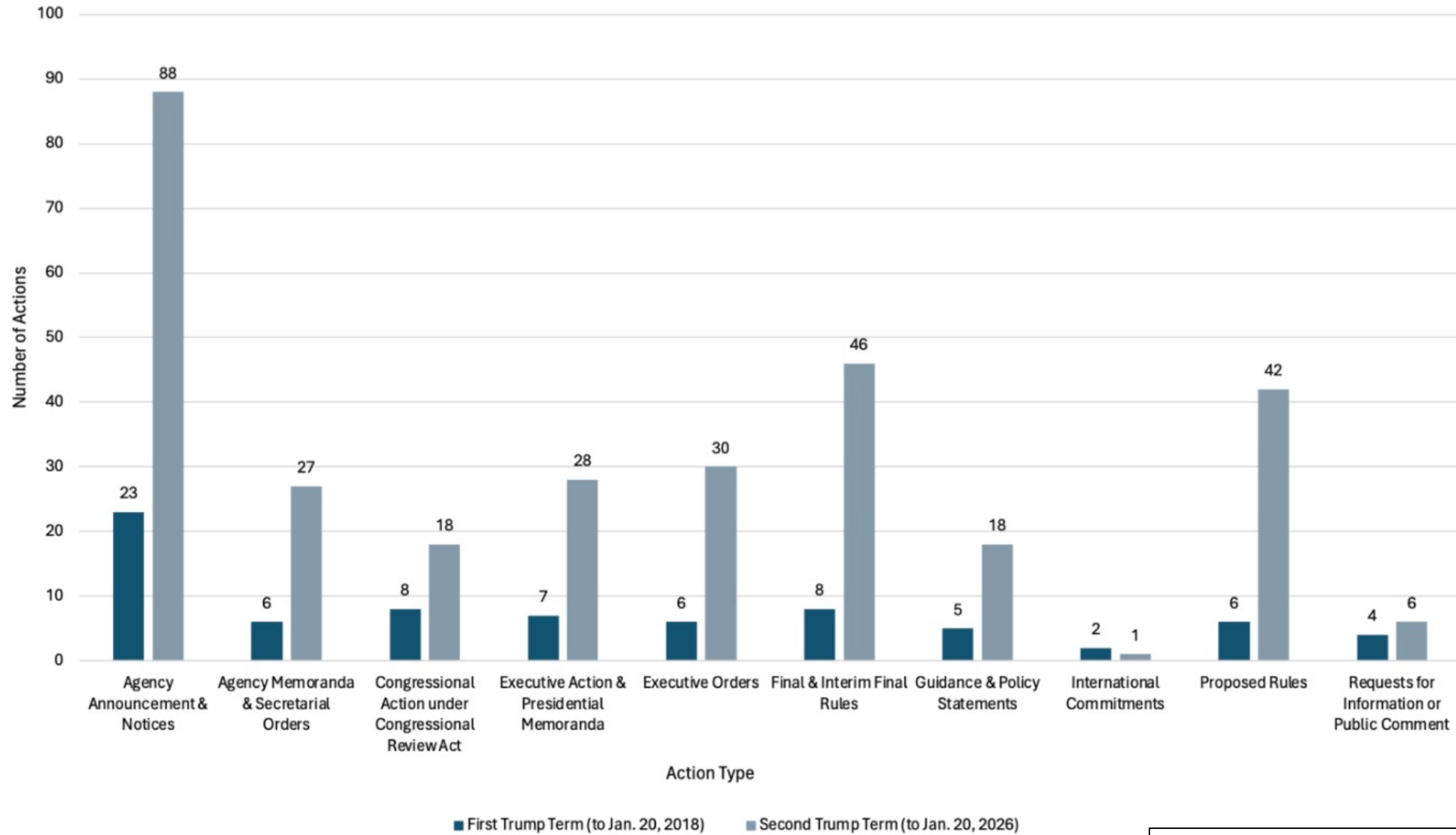
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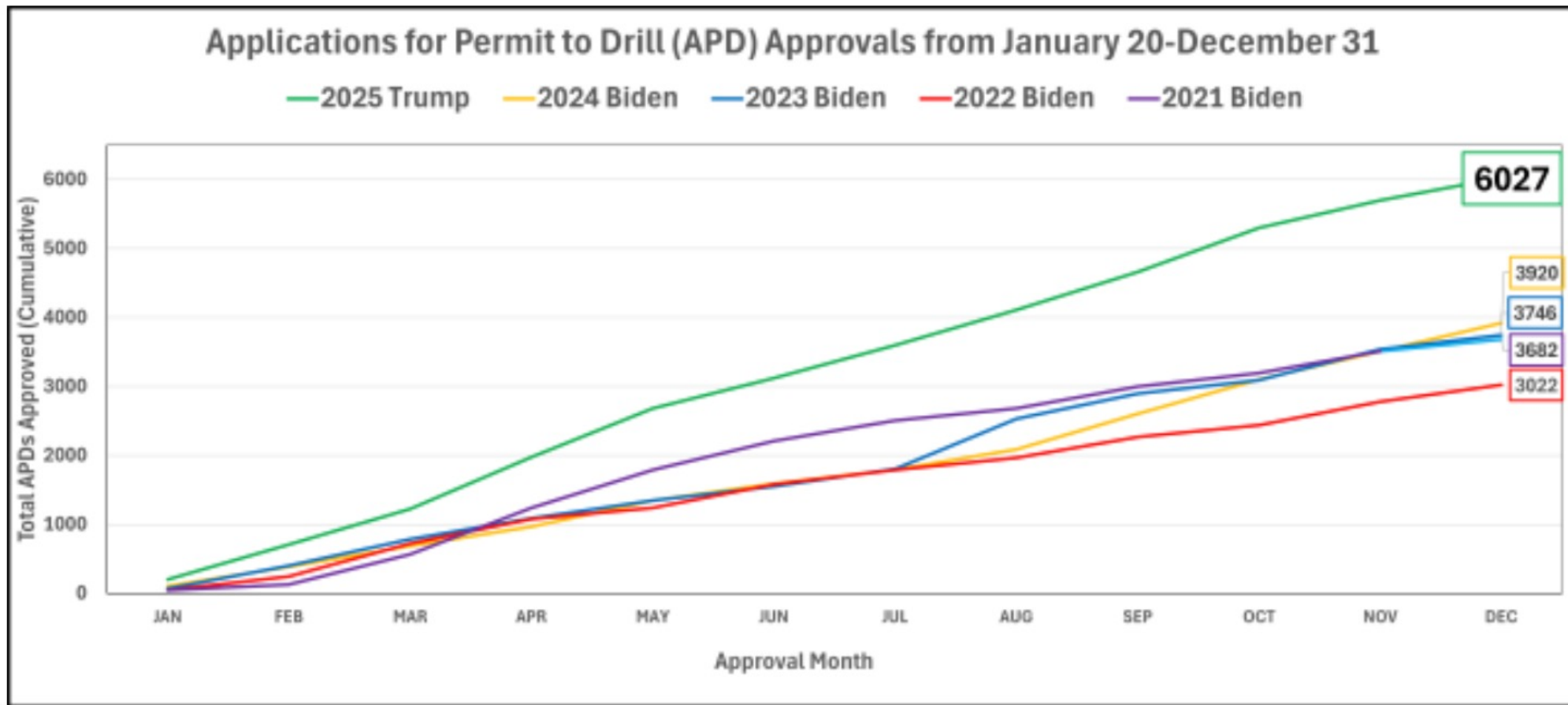
Climate Backtracker

The Climate Backtracker identifies steps taken by the Trump-Vance administration to scale back or wholly eliminate federal climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The tracker is linked to our [database](#) of climate change regulations, [related news](#), and two previous climate regulation trackers: the [Climate Deregulation Tracker](#) covering the first Trump administration and the [Climate Reregulation Tracker](#) covering the Biden administration. Please contact Olivia Guarna (ong2107@columbia.edu) with questions or corrections.

Deregulatory Actions by Type: First Trump Administration vs. Second Trump Administration



Source: [Climate Law Blog \(2026\)](#)



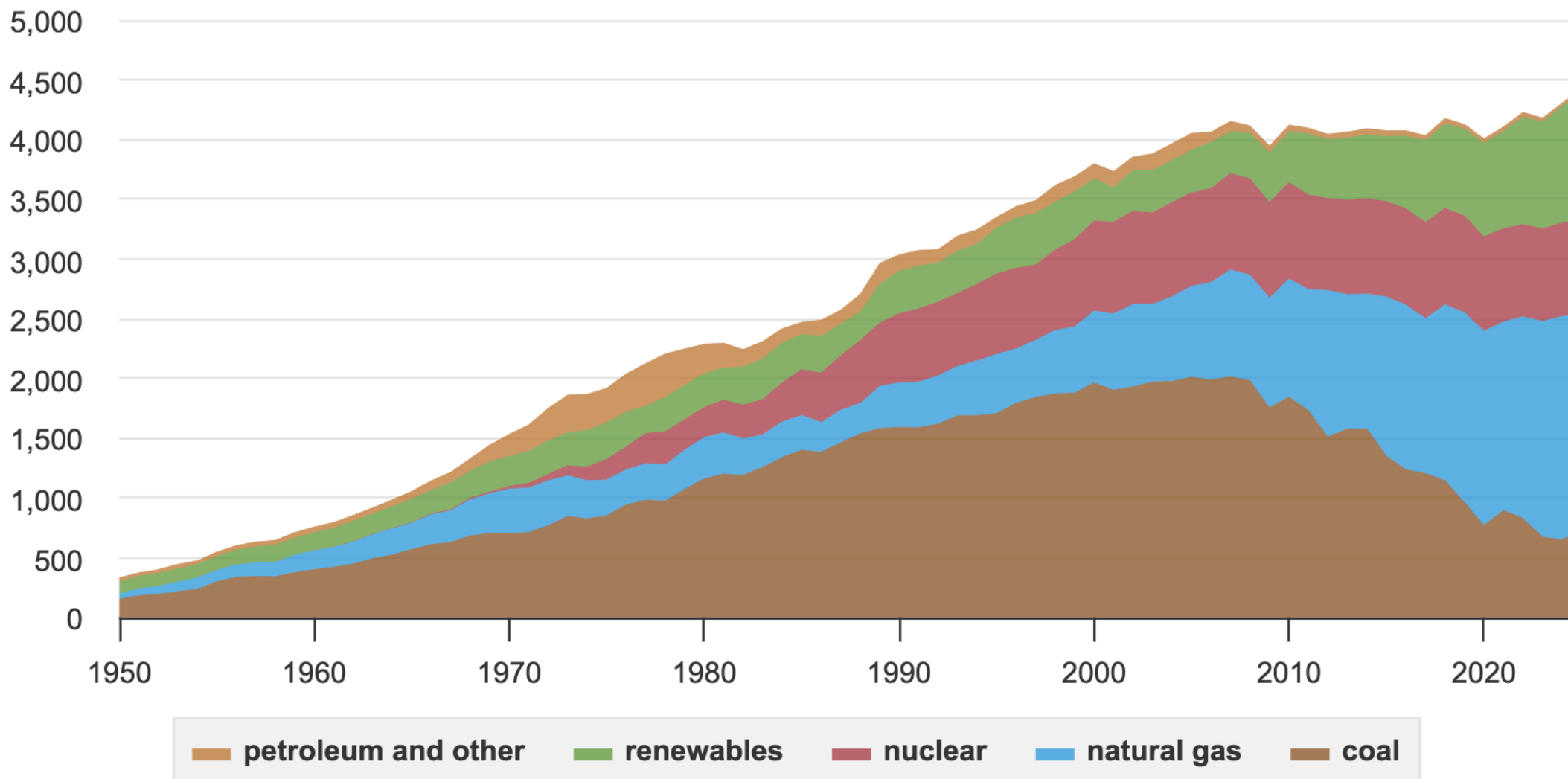
A chart showing the number of approved Applications for Permit to Drill (APD), the final approval from the BLM for operators to develop onshore leases for federal or Indian oil and gas resources, between January 20 – December 31 for the past five years.

Source: [Bureau of Land Management \(2026\)](#)

U.S. electricity generation by major energy source, 1950-2025



billion kilowatthours



Source: [U.S. Energy Information Administration \(2025\)](#)



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Order No. 202-25-14

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Energy by section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ and section 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act,² and for the reasons set forth below, I hereby determine that an emergency exists within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Northwest assessment area due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes, and that issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

BACKGROUND

Craig Station (Craig) is an electric generating facility in Craig, Colorado. Craig is operated by the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State). Craig consists of three coal-fired generation units, Unit 1 (446.4 MW), Unit 2 (446.4 MW), and Unit 3 (534.8 MW), with a combined name plate capacity of 1427.6 MW.³ Unit 1 and Unit 2 are co-owned by Tri-State, Platte River Power Authority, Salt River Project, PacifiCorp, and Xcel Energy (co-owners).⁴ Unit 3 is wholly owned by Tri-State. Unit 1 and Unit 2 began operations in 1980 and 1979 respectively. Unit 3 began operations in 1984. Unit 1 is slated to cease operations in December 2025. Unit 2 and Unit 3 are slated to retire in 2028.⁵

CLIMATEWIRE

3 coal turbines ordered to stay open by DOE have not run

By BENJAMIN STORROW | 04/10/2026 06:30 AM EDT

Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the retiring plants were needed to potentially save lives. None of them have generated power.

Climate

Sign in

CLIMATE • 6 MIN READ

Trump wants new coal plants built in the US. The price tag could be astronomical

JUL 13, 2026



By Ella Nilsen

EPA Proposes Repeal of Power Plant GHG Emissions Standards

Posted on June 13, 2025

POSTED IN **ENVIRONMENT / ENERGY**

If finalized, the rule would eliminate both Obama- and Biden-era limits on GHG emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants.

By **Karl A. Karg**, **Stacey L. VanBelleghem**, **Nikki Buffa**, **Devin M. O'Connor**, and **G. Jack Mathews**

On June 11, 2025, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a **proposed rule** under the Clean Air Act (CAA) titled “Repeal of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units” (the Proposed Repeal).



Source: [Latham & Watkins \(2025\)](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

وزير الدولة لشؤون الطاقة
Minister of State for Energy Affairs
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM RESOURCES
Federal Republic of Nigeria

An Open Letter to Leaders of the European Commission, European Council, and European Union (EU) Member States on the EU Methane Regulation

Dear President von der Leyen, President Costa, and EU Member State Leaders:

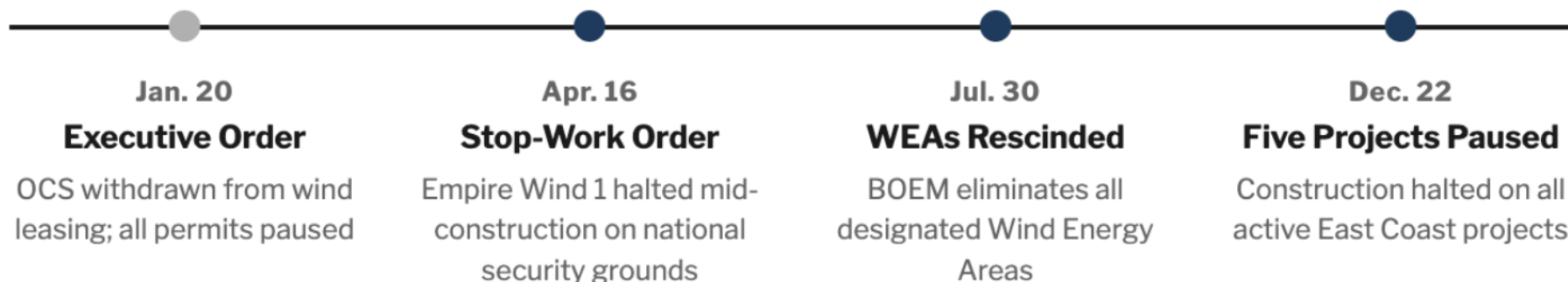
As your largest energy suppliers, we are committed to strengthening our economic and strategic partnerships and ensuring Europe's energy security. We fully support your objectives of increasing EU economic competitiveness, prosperity, sustainability, and energy security through provision of reliable energy supplies for the European Union and its citizens.

It is with these shared goals in mind that we write to urge the EU to take swift, necessary actions to clarify and to adopt targeted amendments to the EU Methane Regulation (EUMR), some of which have already been requested by several EU Member States, industry, and members of European Parliament.

Source: [Department of Energy \(2026\)](#)

Trump's escalating campaign against offshore wind

Key actions taken since inauguration, 2025



Source: DOI, BOEM, White House

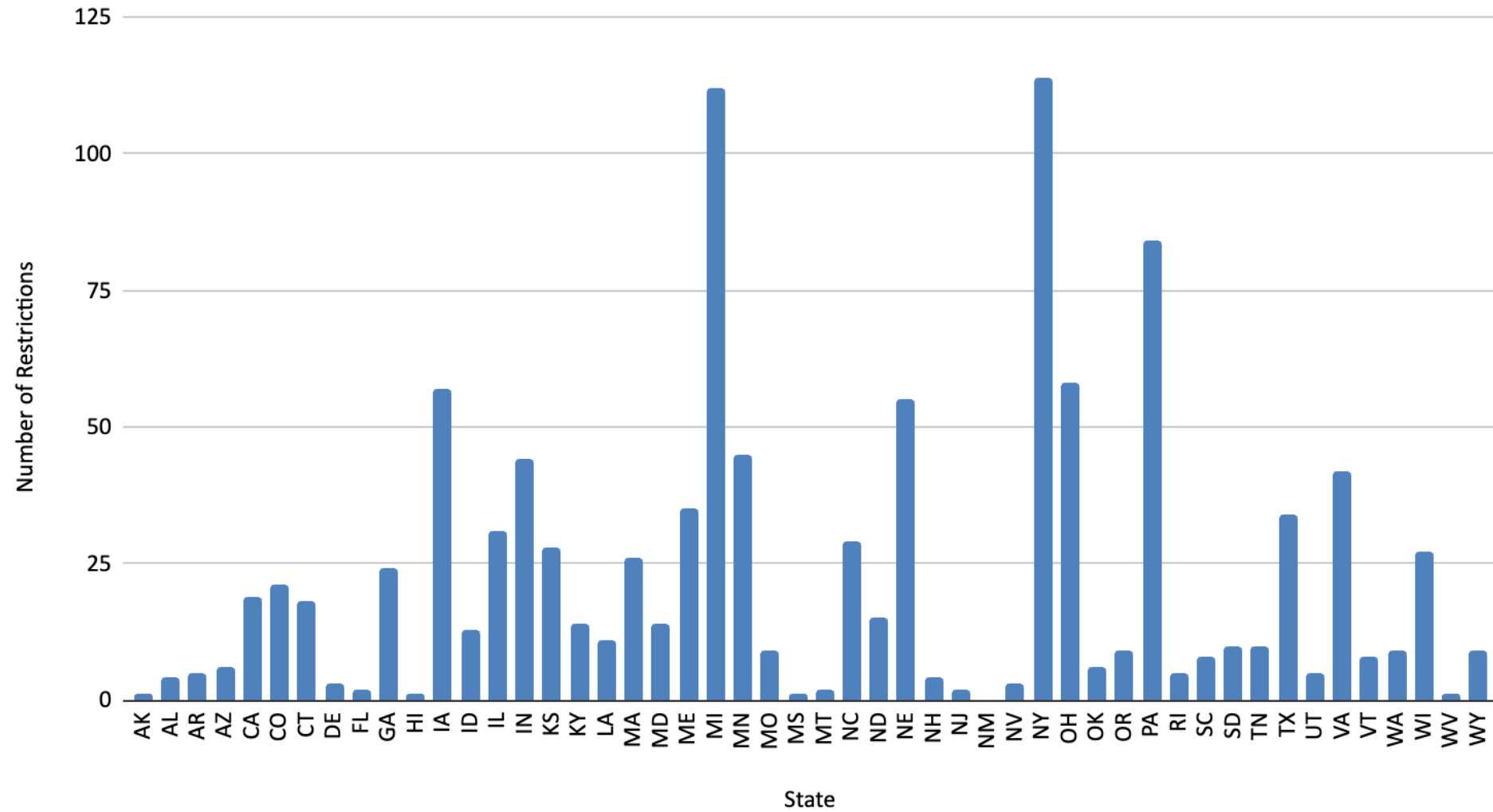
Timeline of the Trump administration's attacks on offshore wind (Image credit: Nick Zenkin)

Courts have repeatedly blocked these moves, finding the administration failed to justify its rationale. And Trump has repeatedly responded by appealing and escalating.

"My goal is to not let any windmill be built," he told oil executives at the White House last month.

Source: [Latitude Media \(2026\)](#)

Number of Restrictions per State



Source: [Sabin Center for Climate Change Law \(2026\)](#)

Figure 1. Energy supply receives about half of IRA resources, with significant investments in clean manufacturing and housing (billions of dollars)

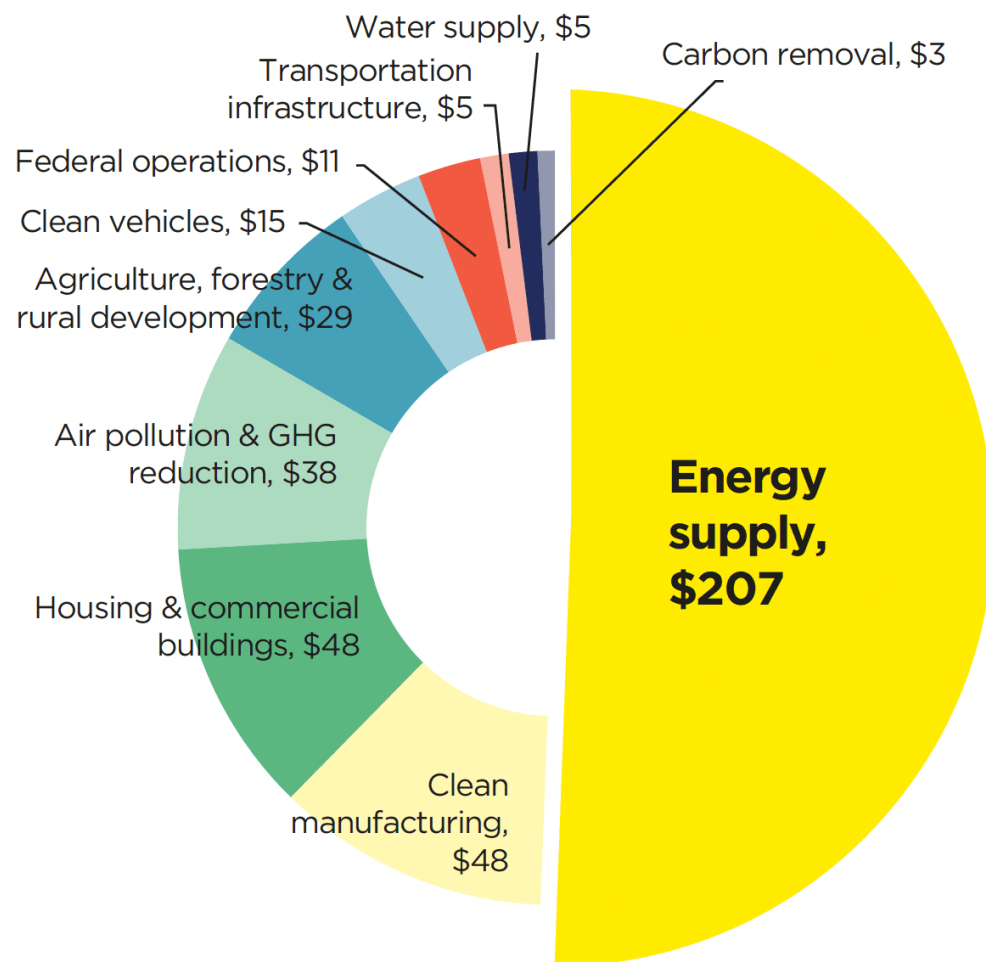
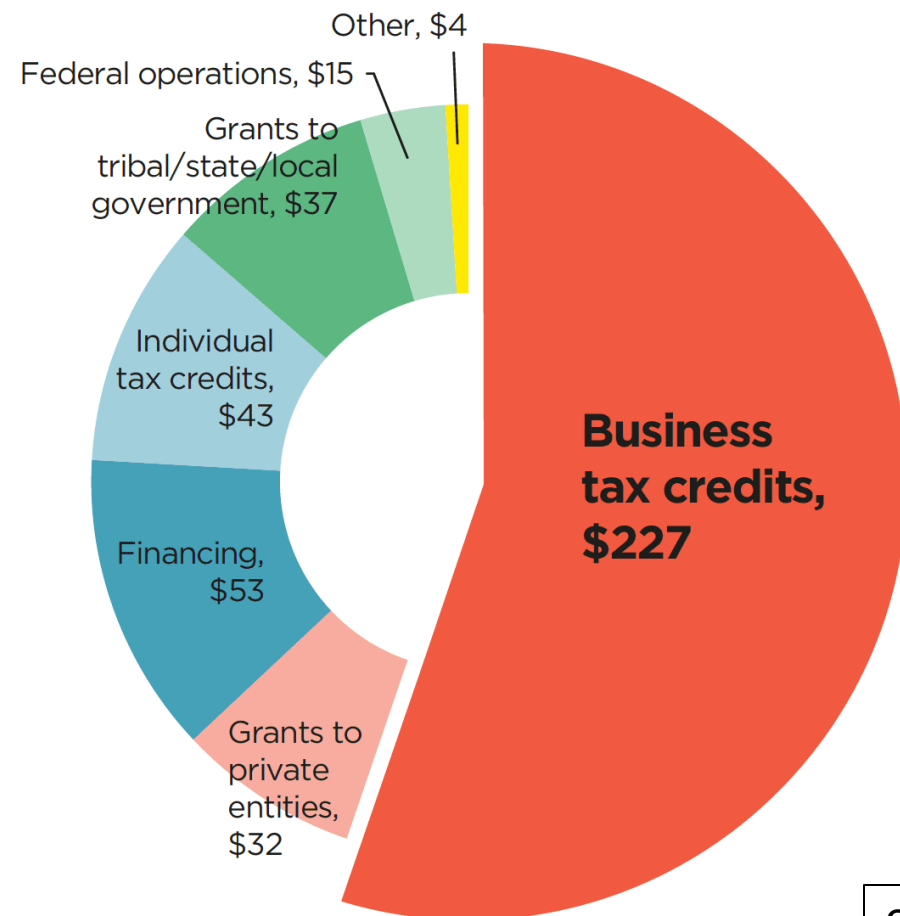
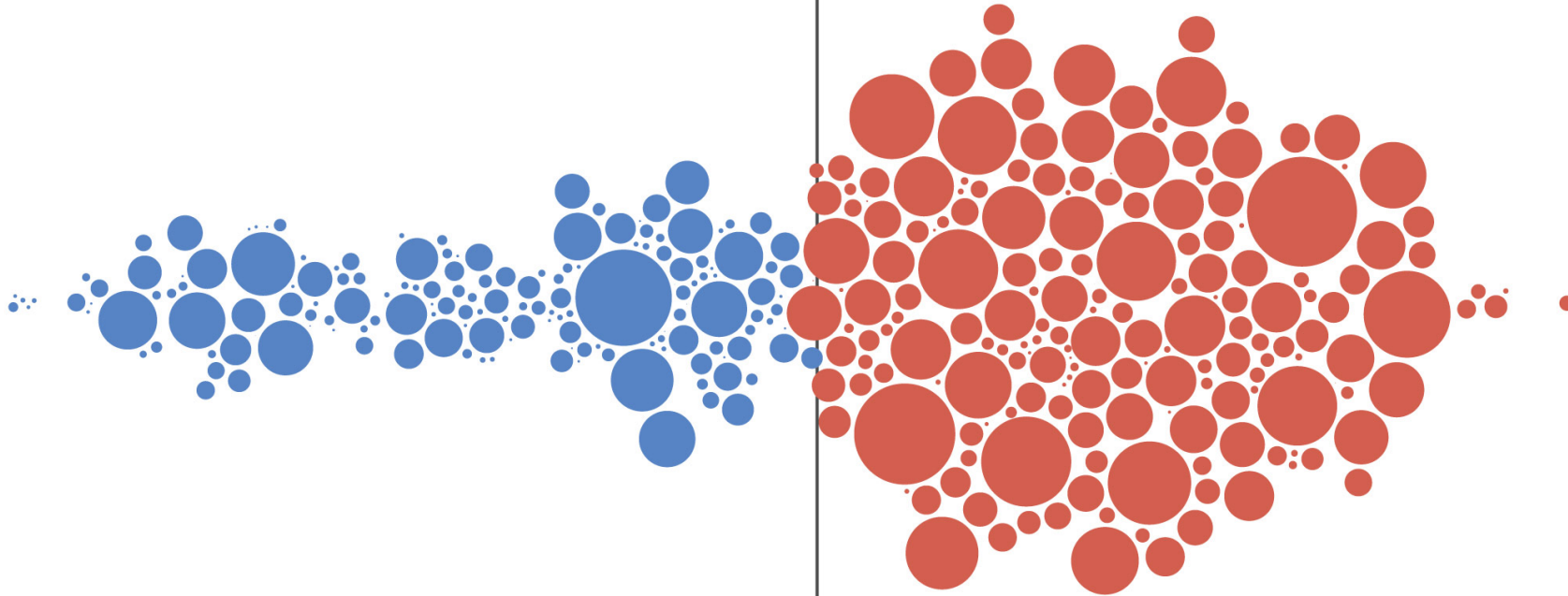


Figure 2. The largest share of IRA funding will be available as tax credits to businesses (billions of dollars)



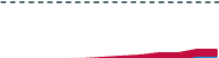
Investments in districts
that voted **Biden**

Investments in districts
that voted **Trump**

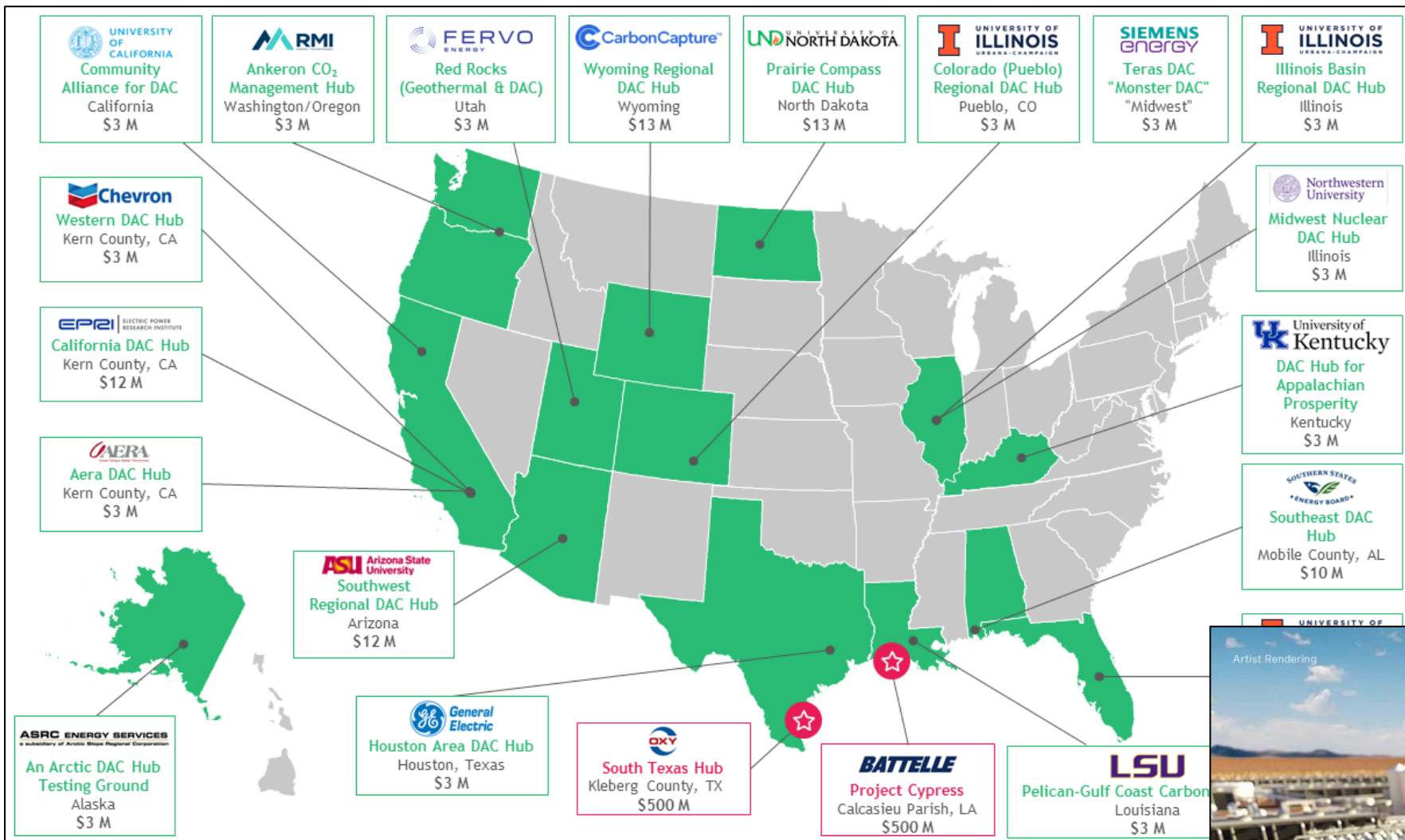


Source: [Washington Post \(2024\)](#)

One Big Beautiful Bill Act phases out incentives for solar & wind, biggest impacts on EV adoption and US manufacturing

Technology	IRA Incentives (2022-2025) vs OBBBA Policy Changes (2025 onward)		Industry Outlook ² in the U.S. with OBBBA	
Solar & Wind		48E and 45Y credits available until 2033 - Phased out after 2027¹; sourcing rules tightened (FEOC)		- Continued growth trend through 2030, significant slow-down by 2035³ - Overall higher electricity end-user prices
Green Hydrogen		45V credit available until 2033 - Phased out by 2028		Deployment undermined by weak demand, loss of incentives, and sourcing restrictions
Electric Vehicles		30D, 25E, and 45W credits for EVs; 30C for charging infrastructure - Phased out by 2026 (30D/25E/45W by Oct 2025, 30C by Jul 2026)		Consumer adoption hit by loss of credits and policy uncertainty
Manufacturing		45X and 28C credits support clean tech supply chain 45X phased out after 2027 (wind) and 2028 (solar/storage); 48C compromised by sourcing rules		- Clean energy manufacturing hit by loss of credits and supply chain constraints - Subsidy loss threatens existing investments
Carbon Capture		45Q credit available until 2033 - Preserved; EOR provisions enhanced		Growth in oil and gas CCS, challenged by foreign entity restrictions
Energy Storage		48E credit available until 2033 - Preserved in full		Preserved credits support growth, challenged by foreign entity restrictions
Biofuels		45Z credit available until 2027 - Extended to 2029; feedstock sourcing rules tightened; capped SAF		Slow adoption, challenged by foreign entity restrictions
Geothermal		48E and 45Y credits available until 2033 - Preserved in full		- Moderate growth from low baseline - R&D support for superhot geothermal
Nuclear		- ITC/PTC for new, 45U for existing plants available until 2033 - Preserved in full; fuel sourcing rules apply after 2028		- Challenges remain for large ~1GW reactors - More optimistic outlook for SMRs, XMRs
Oil, Gas		- No support - Gains tax breaks, public land access, and regulatory rollbacks		Stable or rising share, as renewables face disadvantage

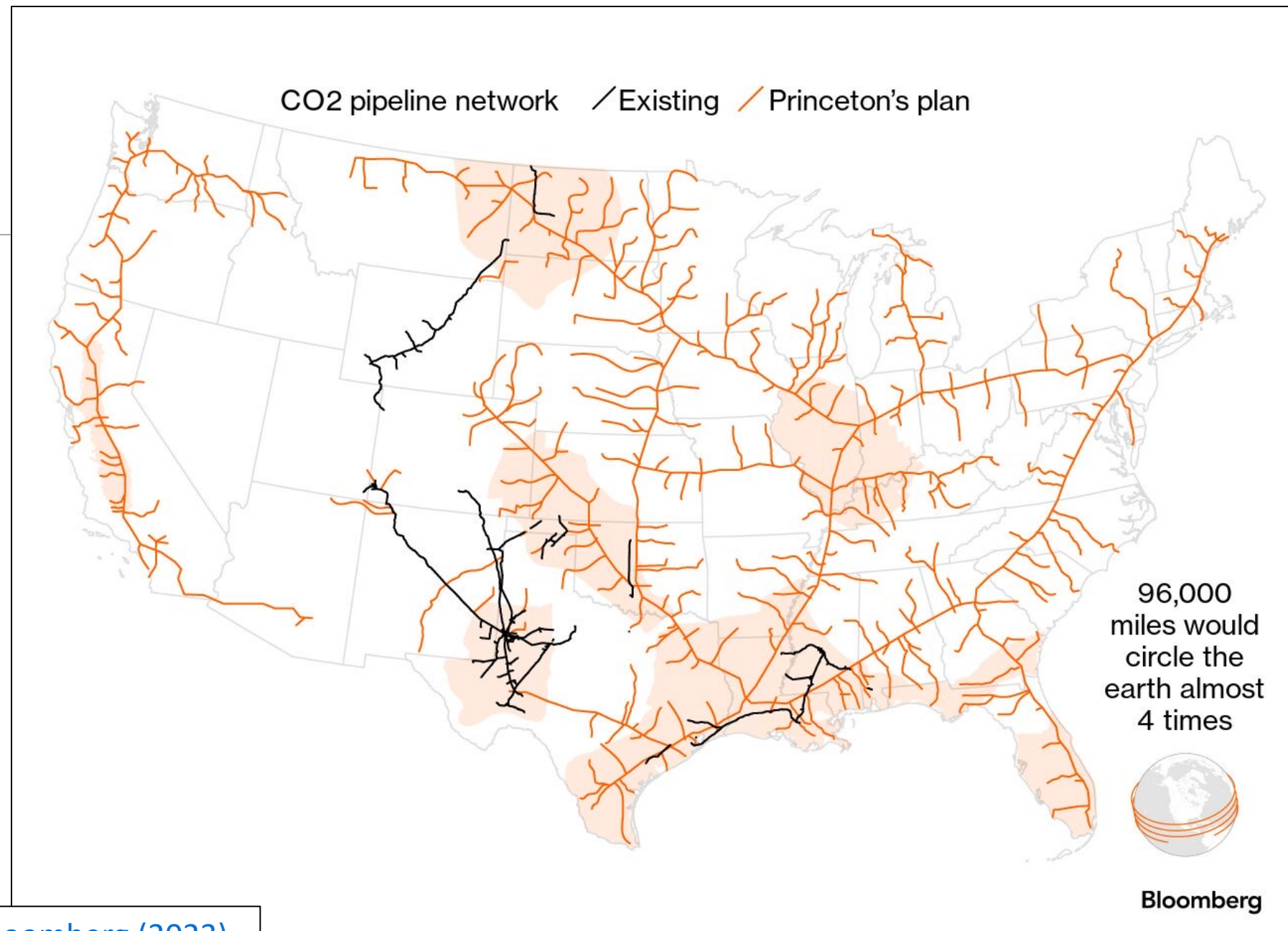
Source: [Columbia Business School \(2025\)](#)



Source: [Hart Energy \(2022\)](#)

Source: [Boston Consulting Group \(2023\)](#)

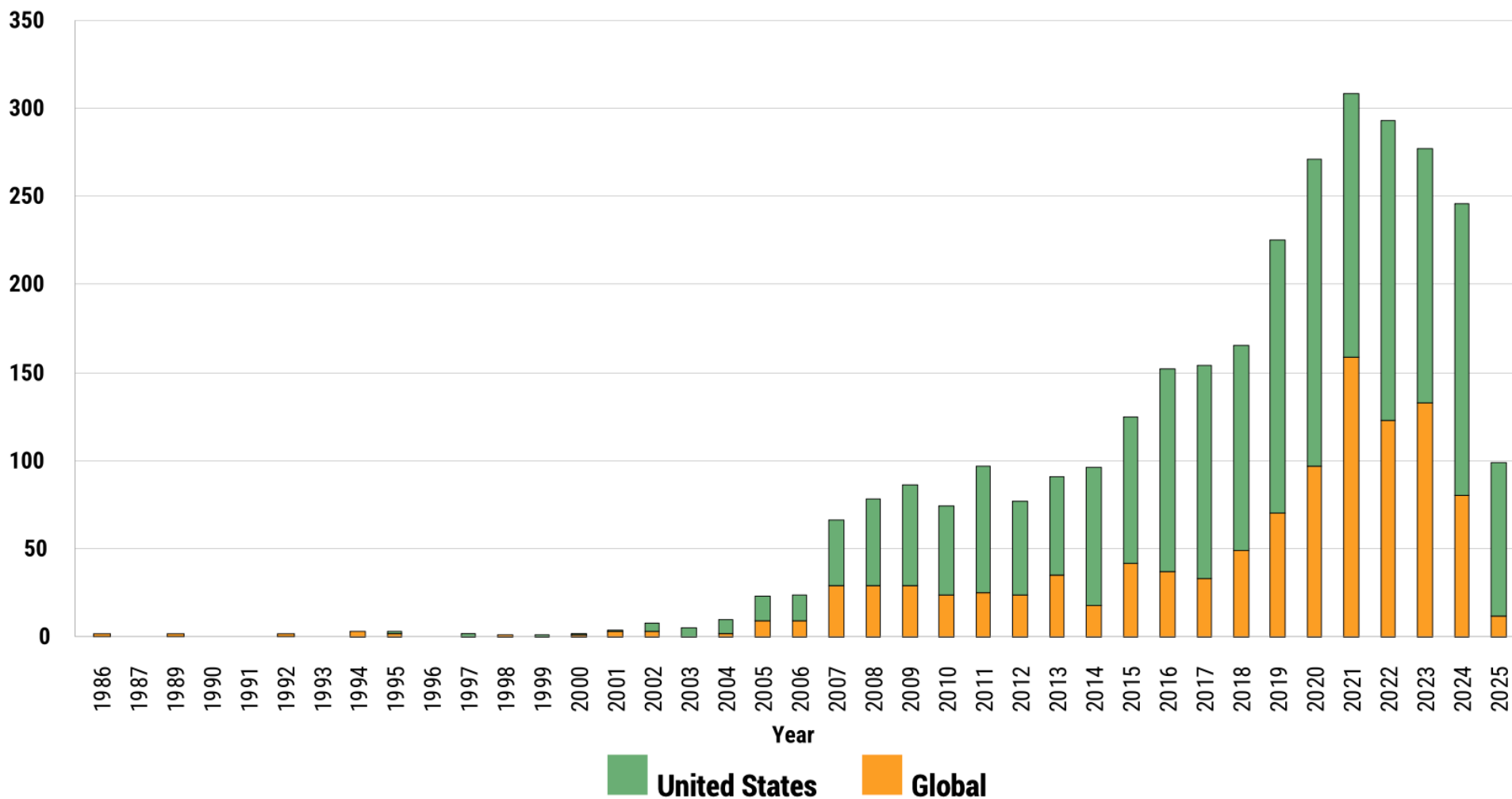




Source: [Bloomberg \(2023\)](#)

Figure 1: Filings of climate litigation cases per year

Global and United States of America climate change litigation cases filed by year (1986-2025)



Source: [UNEP Climate Litigation Report \(2025\)](#)

COMMON CLAIMS AGAINST GOVERNMENTS	EXAMPLES
Legality of policies / decisions that increase greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., approval of fossil fuel infrastructure)	Sierra Club v. FERC (challenge to approval of natural gas pipeline); Center for Biological Diversity v. FERC (challenge to approval of LNG terminal)
Statutory obligations to regulate greenhouse gas emissions (“substantive regulation cases”)	Massachusetts v. EPA (action to compel EPA to regulate motor vehicle emissions); American Lung Association v. EPA (challenge to EPA’s weakening of power plant regulations)
Constitutional / common law obligations to regulate greenhouse gas emissions (“climate rights cases”)	Juliana v. United States (claim that federal govt. violated constitutional rights by failing to control greenhouse gas emissions); Held v. State of Montana (claim that states’ support for climate damaging activities violated state Constitution)

COMMON CLAIMS AGAINST PRIVATE PARTIES	EXAMPLES
Inadequate or misleading climate disclosures	Berrin v. Delta Airlines (greenwashing suit, alleging Delta misrepresented the climate impacts of its operations); Fentress v. Exxon (action by Exxon employees re: company's failure to disclose information about climate change that would impact stock valuation)
Failure to adapt to climate change leading to breach of regulatory programs	Conservation Law Foundation v. ExxonMobil (action alleging that Exxon violated permit by failing to prepare coastal fuel storage terminal for sea level rise)
Failure to mitigate or adapt to climate change causing damage to others' rights ("climate damage cases")	City of Oakland v. BP (claim by local govt. seeking to recover costs incurred in dealing with climate impacts); Leon v. ExxonMobil (wrongful death suit against Exxon filed by family of woman who died during heatwave)