

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8247

To establish an interagency group on categorical exclusions, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish an interagency group on categorical exclusions,  
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Commonsense Review  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY GROUP ON CATEGORICAL EXCLU-**  
7 **SIONS.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an inter-  
9 agency group that shall work toward interagency align-  
10 ment on categorical exclusions.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The interagency group estab-  
2 lished by subsection (a) shall consist of—

3 (1) the Secretary of Energy;

4 (2) the Secretary of the Interior;

5 (3) each member of the Federal Energy Regu-  
6 latory Commission; and

7 (4) the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (c) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Energy shall serve as  
9 the chair of the interagency group established by sub-  
10 section (a).

11 (d) DUTIES.—Not later than 360 days after the date  
12 of enactment of this Act, each member of the interagency  
13 group established by subsection (a) shall—

14 (1) pursuant to section 109 of the National En-  
15 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e),  
16 adopt any categorical exclusion with respect to  
17 which—

18 (A) the member identifies the categorical  
19 exclusion under paragraph (1) of such section  
20 as listed in the NEPA procedures of another  
21 member of such interagency group; and

22 (B) the member ensures the adoption of  
23 such categorical exclusion to a category of ac-  
24 tions is appropriate through consultation under  
25 paragraph (2) of such section; and

1           (2) jointly with another member of such inter-  
2           agency group, establish a new categorical exclusion  
3           for any category of actions relating to the interstate  
4           transmission of electric energy or to a battery energy  
5           storage project that such members determine nor-  
6           mally does not significantly affect the quality of the  
7           human environment within the meaning of section  
8           102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act  
9           of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

10          (e) REPORT.—Not later than 360 days after the date  
11 of enactment of this Act, the interagency group estab-  
12 lished by subsection (a) shall submit to Congress a report  
13 on—

14           (1) any categorical exclusion that a member of  
15           the interagency group adopted or established pursu-  
16           ant to this section;

17           (2) if any member of the interagency group did  
18           not adopt or establish a categorical exclusion pursu-  
19           ant to this section, the reason why the member did  
20           not take such action; and

21           (3) any recommendations to Congress on—

22                   (A) future areas for interagency collabora-  
23                   tion on categorical exclusions; and

24                   (B) any need for a statutory categorical  
25                   exclusion.

1           (f) SUNSET.—The interagency group established by  
2 subsection (a) shall dissolve after submission of the report  
3 under subsection (e).

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