BAAJA Will Reduce Emissions and Build Clean Energy

Models from several organizations show BAAJA reducing US emissions:

Rhodium Group	BAAJA would reduce US net emissions by up to 4% by 2040
C2ES/Greenline	Transmission reforms would reduce power-sector emissions by 13% by 2035
Resources for the Future	BAAJA would reduce power-sector emissions by 15% in the near term and 6% in 2041
Solar Energy Industries Association	BAAJA would reduce power-sector emissions by 20% by 2035 compared with the current obstructed trajectory
Climate Leadership Council	BAAJA would reduce power-sector emissions by 13.5% by 2035 compared with the baseline

Transmission: BAAJA would massively expand America's electric grid, allow clean energy to be added faster, lower costs for ratepayers, and enable the clean energy transition.

- **Interregional transmission**: BAAJA would expand interregional transmission, creating a process for interregional planning and backstop authority for new lines.
- **Holding utilities accountable**: If utilities raise costs for ratepayers by overinvesting in expensive local projects, states could refer utilities to FERC for investigation.
- **Interconnection queue reform**: BAAJA requires transmission service providers to speed up the process for how projects connect to the grid.
- **Advanced transmission technologies**: BAAJA requires utilities to prioritize deploying cost-effective upgrades and maximize capacity on existing lines.

Geothermal: BAAJA reduces federal regulatory barriers to building geothermal energy, a source of clean firm power. The bill puts geothermal permitting on a level playing field with fossil fuels, requires regular geothermal lease sales, and creates an ombudsman to coordinate geothermal permitting within the federal government.

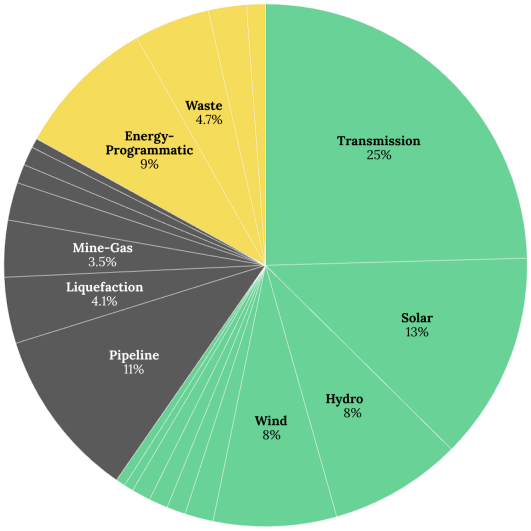
Clean Water Act benefits for transmission: BAAJA changes the rules for how states can condition approvals under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Right now, transmission lines often fail before reaching the point where they need Clean Water 401 certification, but since BAAJA fixes those earlier bottlenecks, this reform is vital to ensure multistate transmission lines cannot be held up by individual states for political reasons.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Clean energy projects are disproportionately burdened by NEPA when compared to fossil fuels. Between 2010 and 2018 (when renewable projects were less common than in the 2020s), clean projects made up 60% of all energy-related projects requiring an EIS (the longest type of NEPA review); fossil-fuel projects were only 24%. Transmission, solar and wind projects are also more likely to face litigation than their fossil counterparts.

BAAJA reforms NEPA to set clear timelines and limit litigation, significantly reducing review times and legal risk for clean energy.

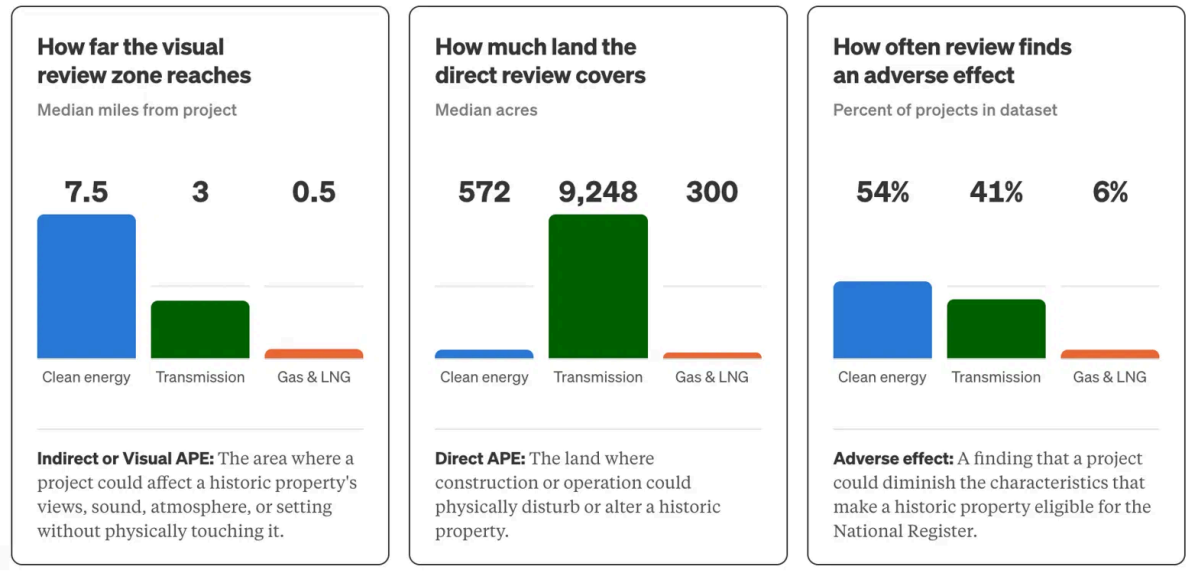
NEPA Reviews of Energy Projects (2010-2018)

Breakdown of all energy projects that received an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from 2010 to 2018 by sub-sector.



National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): Section 106 of NHPA disproportionately burdens clean projects because transmission and renewables are taller, longer, and require more land than fossil projects, resulting in a larger visual Area of Potential Effects (APE). Analysis of 96 large energy projects found that clean projects required 10x as much review area as their fossil counterparts and were 8x more likely to get an adverse effect finding.

BAAJA would create clear deadlines and reduce litigation risk under Section 106. These reforms would disproportionately benefit clean energy.



Renewables on federal land: BAAJA creates deadlines to issue rights-of-way for renewable energy, creates new exclusions for small solar, and fixes offshore wind rights-of-way siting.