

S 1713

Water Efficiency via Carbon Harvesting and Restoration (WECHAR) Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Sep 24, 2009

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introd

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S9848-9850) (Sep 24, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1713>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]	D · MT		Sep 24, 2009
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Sep 24, 2009
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Sep 24, 2009
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 24, 2009
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 29, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 24, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 3748	Identical bill	Jun 15, 2010: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research.

Water Efficiency via Carbon Harvesting and Restoration (WECHAR) Act of 2009 - Requires the Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct resources assessments that collect and synthesize interagency and state data to quantify: (1) invasive plant species and excess biomass (plant matter targeted for removal from public land to promote ecosystem health) in the form of dangerous fuel loads on public land that can be used for feedstock (plant matter or materials that serve as the raw material for the production of biochar and bioenergy); (2) estimated carbon content in that feedstock; (3) estimated potential biochar (charcoal or black carbon derived from organic matter through pyrolysis) and bioenergy (hydrocarbons derived from organic matter through pyrolysis) producible from that feedstock; and (4) potential water savings resulting from removal of invasive plant species and excess biomass on public land, by watershed.

Directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to each: (1) establish a program to provide guarantees of loans by private institutions to develop and optimize commercially and technologically viable biochar production units, to produce, respectively, four and two units for deployment to remote landscapes, and for the construction or acquisition of biochar production facilities, provided the loan applicants will be dedicated primarily to contract restoration work with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, or Forest Service using pinyon pine and juniper feedstock in the Great Basin, tamarisk feedstock in the Mojave Desert, or excess biomass feedstock, such as trees killed by bark beetle infestations in the Intermountain West; and (2) initiate three-year programs to employ such biochar production units in pilot applications in various U.S. climates and ecosystems.

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide competitive grants to conduct research and analysis: (1) to identify attributes and composition profiles of biochar and bioenergy for various uses; (2) to identify potential uses and markets for biochar and bioenergy; (3) relating to environmental benefits and impacts of biochar and bioenergy use; and (4) regarding potential uses of biochar in landscape restoration.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 24, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 24, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9843-9844)
- **Sep 24, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S9848-9850)