

S 4603

Forest Health and Biomass Energy Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Sep 16, 2020

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-382. (Nov 18, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4603>

Sponsor

Name: [Sen. McSally, Martha \[R-AZ\]](#)

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Nov 18, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Forest Health and Biomass Energy Act of 2020

This bill addresses biomass energy, particularly with respect to materials removed from high-hazard areas (e.g., areas that pose wildfire risks).

The bill directs the Department of Energy, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (USDA), to assess the potential to produce biomass energy from certain land under the administrative jurisdiction of Interior and USDA.

With respect to the removal of timber located within certain high-hazard areas, USDA shall not charge a stumpage rate or assign any value to (1) certain trees, (2) forest processing residues or byproducts of forest restoration, or (3) a large dead tree that is not suitable for higher-valued wood products because of decay.

The bill establishes the High Hazard Area Wood Biomass Fund, into which USDA may deposit a percentage of the revenue generated from base stumpage rates of timber sales that occur on National Forest System land to assist timber operators and biomass energy producers with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of biomass material removed from high-hazard areas.

The President shall include in the annual budget submission an annual performance metric, which shall be established by USDA, for the harvest of wood biomass material in green tons made available for bioenergy markets.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 18, 2020:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-382.
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.