

HR 7878

Scenic Trail Viewshed Protection Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Jul 30, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (Jul 30, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7878>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NH • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]	D · NJ		Jul 30, 2020
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jul 30, 2020
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Jul 30, 2020
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jul 30, 2020
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jul 30, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 30, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Scenic Trail Viewshed Protection Act

This bill authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a natural gas pipeline project that crosses or impacts the view from a national scenic trail under certain conditions.

Specifically, FERC may issue such certificate only if it determines that

- the pipeline is the only alternative to meet an overriding public need;
- the applicant considered alternatives in order to result in no, or minimal, adverse effect to the trail;
- minimal road construction will be required to construct and operate the pipeline;
- construction of the pipeline will use the best available technology in order to minimize the potential for leakage;
- the pipeline will intersect the trail at a point that already has significant infrastructure crossing and only crosses the trail once;
- the pipeline will not affect the viewshed of a trail in an area of high conservation, recreational, or scenic value, a protected wilderness area, an old-growth forest or alpine area, or the designated location for a shelter or campsite;
- construction techniques for the pipeline will produce a minimal disturbance to the trail and surrounding conserved lands;
- plans for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the pipeline ensure that it is done in a way that minimizes impact on the trail; and
- the applicant acknowledges that it has a duty to protect the trail and ensure the health and safety of the public who use such trail and the surrounding environment.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 30, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 30, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.