

# **Energy Security Cooperation with Allied Partners in Europe Act of 2018**

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**U.S. Senator John Barrasso**

## **SUMMARY:**

The Energy Security Cooperation with Allied Partners in Europe Act or the “ESCAPE Act”:

- Directs the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO to encourage NATO member states to work together to achieve energy security for its members and partners in Europe and Eurasia.
- Calls for a comprehensive U.S. government transatlantic energy strategy that focuses on increasing the energy security of our NATO allies and partners as well as increasing American energy exports to those countries.
- Requires the Secretary of Energy to expedite approvals of natural gas exports to NATO allies and Japan; and any other foreign country where exports of natural gas to that country would promote the national security interests of the United States.
- Authorizes mandatory U.S. sanctions on the development of Russian energy pipeline projects, such as Nord Stream II.

## **PURPOSE:**

It is important to the national security of the United States to assist our allies in reducing their dependency on Russian energy resources. The bill works to develop a transatlantic energy strategy to enhance the energy security of NATO members by providing those countries with reliable and dependable American energy. The bill also mandates sanctions on Nord Stream II and other Russian energy export pipelines in order to protect our allies from Russian political coercion.

### **Why it is needed?**

There is a national security problem for the United States when our allies are increasingly dependent on Russian gas.

Russia continues to undermine peace and security in Europe through a variety of mechanisms, including its use of energy as a geopolitical weapon.

Russian ownership of energy infrastructure in Europe poses a security and economic risk to European allies.

Nord Stream II would make Europe more reliant on Russian gas by undermining the diversification of Europe’s energy sources, supplies and routes.