



## The *E-Access Act of 2026*

**Led in the Senate by:** Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)

**Introduced in the House by:** Representatives Kevin Mullin (D-CA-15); Mike Levin (D-CA-49)

**Background:** Over the past two decades, taxpayers and utilities have [invested billions of dollars](#) in advanced metering infrastructure to expand access to real-time energy usage and pricing data. However, these benefits remain largely untapped due to the absence of a robust framework that would enable consumers or authorized third parties to access information in a timely and convenient manner.

At the same time, rising utility costs continue to burden families and small businesses across the United States. Lack of meaningful access to energy usage data makes it [even more difficult](#) for consumers to manage monthly bills, adjust usage when energy prices are higher, or take advantage of market-driven tools to help lower costs. Unlocking this data would empower households and businesses to reduce their energy bills and strengthen grid reliability—saving consumers an estimated [\\$250 million annually](#) through smarter, data-driven energy usage.

**Legislation:** The *E-Access Act* of 2026 will improve consumers' access to their energy consumption data by directing the Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to:

- Develop voluntary guidelines for how consumers and authorized third parties would be able to securely access electric and natural gas usage, billing, and pricing data in real-time;
- Develop standards for fair access to utility-operated smart meter software platforms to promote competition and enable the innovation of new tools that can help consumers control and optimize their own energy usage;
- Allow states to include consumer energy-data access programs in their energy conservation plans, and authorize \$10 million to assist states in meeting the guidelines issued under this bill; and
- Study the costs and benefits of using individual meter data to increase the efficiency of wholesale energy markets and lower consumer costs.

**Supporting Organizations:** The *E-Access Act* is supported by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), American Economic Liberties Project, Building Performance Association, Consumer Federation of America, Efficiency Vermont, Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), Honeywell, Institute for Market Transformation, Mission:Data Coalition, National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO), Northeast Energy Efficiency and Electrification Council (NEEEEC), Rewiring America, and the U.S. Green Building Council.