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COAL**Wyo. lawmakers push bill in search of alternative uses**

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Rep. Liz Cheney and Sen. John Barrasso, both Wyoming Republicans, are pushing legislation to find new uses for coal. C-SPAN

Lawmakers from America's top two coal states have united behind legislation to help turn coal into something besides electricity.

On Wednesday, Wyoming Republican Rep. Liz Cheney introduced [H.R. 5704](#), co-sponsored by West Virginia Republican Reps. David McKinley and Carol Miller.

The "Creating Opportunities and Leveraging Technologies for Coal Carbon (COAL TeCC) Act" is a companion to [S. 3047](#), sponsored by Wyoming Republican Sen. John Barrasso and both West Virginia senators — Republican Shelley Moore Capito and Democrat Joe Manchin.

Coal's allies in Congress have been unable to save power plants — consumers of more than 90% of U.S. coal — being replaced by natural gas and renewable energy electricity generation.

After several failed White House bids to intervene on behalf of what President Trump calls a "beautiful, clean" energy, the Trump administration and industry have turned their attention to transforming coal into carbon fiber and other materials.

The Wyoming-West Virginia bill would create a coal-to-products research program at the Department of Energy with \$5 million in dedicated annual funding.

It would also establish a pair of two-year pilot programs to accelerate product commercialization — one located in "each of the two major coal-producing regions." The programs would equally split an additional \$4 million each year, bringing the bill's total spending to \$9 million.

"The unique composition of coal has the potential to create stronger, lighter, and less expensive carbon-based materials, providing coal communities in Wyoming with an important source of jobs and revenue," Cheney said in a statement.

"Investing in carbon-based technology and research strengthens the reality of coal as one of America's most versatile and valuable natural resources," she said.

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