



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

Opening Statement of Chair Kathy Castor
Hearing on “Manufacturing a Clean Energy Future:
Climate Solutions Made in America”
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
February 2, 2022

As prepared for delivery

Tackling the climate crisis presents us with incredible challenges and opportunities. The challenges are clear. We must reduce pollution and reach net zero as quickly as possible. We must lead other nations in the transition to renewables and electric vehicles. And we must make life-saving investments in resilience, public health, and environmental justice. Meeting these challenges with clean energy provides us with historic opportunities: to create millions of good-paying jobs; to drive down the costs of energy and of climate-fueled disasters; to shore up our supply chains; to clean up hard-to-decarbonize industries; and to lead the 21st century global economy.

We must be clear-eyed and responsive to how the change over to clean energy will affect American families and our economy. As the clean energy economy grows, we will still grapple with the constraints posed by our long-time dependency on fossil fuels. But America has met these kinds of challenges before - and I'm confident we will do so again.

We know what we need to do. In our Climate Crisis Action Plan, we recommended using incentives to retool and expand domestic manufacturing of clean energy, electric vehicles, and EV components. We supported investing in a national network of zero-emission fueling infrastructure. And we called for strong policies to strengthen manufacturing in America – the all important “Made In the USA” tag - with an eye on creating good jobs, especially in areas that have struggled to attract economic investment.

We've made significant progress on these fronts. As American automakers move to all electric vehicles in the coming years, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides for the deployment of half a million chargers across America. The historic investment in infrastructure also boosts jobs through modernizing the electric grid and the battery processing industry. But to truly chart the course forward, we must get the cost-saving, climate-focused Build Back Better Act - and the important domestic-manufacturing-focused America COMPETES Act - to the President's desk.

We are in a hyper-competitive race with China and other countries to build these industries, to attract the capital, and to create jobs. Automakers like Ford, GM, and Tesla are moving fast on EVs. Just last week, GM announced a plan to build a battery plant in Michigan, and to retool a factory outside Detroit that will produce electric pickup trucks. This follows announcements by Ford about EV and battery production expansions in Tennessee and Kentucky, and from Tesla in

Texas. With the right policies and incentives, we will win the EV race against China and the European Union.

We can't afford to lose it. Just last year, global investment in climate solutions reached \$755 billion dollars. The global market for solar energy is expected to be worth more than \$220 billion dollars by 2026. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, we can create an estimated 2,000 jobs for every additional gigawatt of domestic solar manufacturing capacity we build. And with wind energy projects like the ones off the coasts of New York and New Jersey, we can produce energy right here in America, with technologies that are built by union labor in America, and with materials that are made in America.

This is how we lower costs for families over time and win the 21st century. Congress must make smart investments today to continue leading the global economy tomorrow. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law laid a foundation. We must now build on it with the clean energy investments in the Build Back Better Act, and with the forward-looking policies in the America COMPETES Act. Today, we'll hear from industry leaders and experts on how these investments will attract companies to the U.S., create new high-quality jobs, and grow opportunities for everyone.