

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo**

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Full Committee Markup

2123 Rayburn House Office Building

January 27, 2014

Chairman Upton, today's markup represents both a small step forward and a giant step backward for energy policy in our country.

Let me begin by stating my support for the *Better Buildings Act*, which will create a new Tenant STAR program. The Energy STAR program has been hugely successful since its debut in 1999, and it's a wonderful example of the power that public-private partnerships can have. This voluntary program is saving billions of dollars per year in energy costs and many tons of carbon emissions, and I believe it is past time that it be extended to tenants of commercial buildings as well as building owners. I'm pleased the Committee is moving forward on bipartisan, bicameral energy efficiency legislation, and I hope this legislation will be only the first in many positive steps our Committee takes this Congress to enact energy efficiency legislation.

With that said, it is extremely disappointing that the Committee is taking up the *Electricity Security and Affordability Act*, which will effectively stop the EPA from *ever* regulating carbon emissions. While I would prefer Congress to take action to address climate change, I support the Administration's effort to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act because time is quickly running out for us to address climate change. The EPA's proposed rules will provide regulatory certainty to fossil-fuel generators and could spur further development of renewable energy technology which is critical to stem climate change. H.R. 3826, on the other hand, is clearly designed to stop the EPA in its tracks. This bill would grant our nation's dirtiest power plants the right to spew millions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere with no regard for the environment or future generations. This legislation is a major step backward for our nation and I strongly oppose it.