

**Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.**  
**House Energy and Commerce Committee**  
**Full Committee Organizational Meeting**  
**Opening Statement**

*January 13, 2015*

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am excited to be taking on this new role as Ranking Member and to be working alongside you this Congress. We both have great respect for this Committee and want it to succeed. I hope that we can mostly agree on issues before us. But where we don't, I will do everything to ensure that our disagreements are based on the substance and handled with respect.

I also look forward to working with all of the members of this great Committee. The Committee's jurisdiction is vast, giving us great opportunity and great responsibility. I am honored to have been chosen to lead our side in these endeavors but the strength of our Committee is its members. Therefore, I would like to introduce our newest ones. We truly have an all-star line-up.

- Yvette Clarke represents New York's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Her district has become a center of innovation for health care and includes some of the best hospitals, trade associations, and businesses in the industry. I look forward to her bringing her enthusiasm and deep knowledge to this Committee.

- Dave Loebsack, as the representative for Iowa's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional district, has been an advocate of making sound investments in renewable energy, such as wind, solar and biofuels. I know that Dave will be able to bring practical experience to the committee as we work to improve opportunity for all Americans.
- Kurt Schrader, who represents Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, has worked to blend his background in agriculture with his passion for technology, research, and a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. As co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition, he represents and strengthens the diversity of the Democratic Caucus and he will be a tremendous asset to the Committee.
- Joe Kennedy, who serves the people of Massachusetts' 4<sup>th</sup>, is firmly committed to social justice and economic opportunity. Joe served in the Peace Corps and worked both as an international development analyst and an anti-poverty consultant. I know that Joe will bring his passion for public service to everything he does on this Committee.
- Tony Cárdenas, representing California's 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, always advocates strongly on behalf of his constituents on issues like juvenile justice, immigration, higher education, and economic

improvement. I am certain Tony will be able to lend his expertise to our Committee's progress.

All our members are experienced, talented, and motivated. Together I hope we can work to improve the lives of every day Americans.

Now, today we will vote on the Committee rules. And while I appreciate the discussions the Chairman has entertained to date, I simply cannot support the change in the rule involving procedures for subpoenas issued by the Chairman. Past Committee rules ensured minority input and the proposal before us would result in zero consultation with the minority.

I know that, just like me, Chairman Upton considers the power to issue subpoenas to be a very serious matter. That is why I will commit to working together to get a subpoena out the door very quickly, when necessary. However, there are times when the involvement of all members is extremely valuable.

Meanwhile, without minority checks and protections, there is a huge potential for abuse of power. And while Chairman Upton's track record does not suggest he would abuse this power, it sets a terrible precedent and would likely become a permanent fixture for this Committee. Subpoena authority is a powerful authority and should be used only as a last resort. Concurring with

the ranking member or a committee vote is the standard every committee should follow.

Therefore, I must oppose this harsh proposal. I hope that the Chairman will reconsider.

Thank you.