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6 LIFT AMERICA: MODERNIZING OUR

7 INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

8 WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

9 House of Representatives

10 Committee on Energy and Commerce

11 Washington, D.C.

12

13

14

15 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:03 a.m., in
16 Room 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Pallone
17 [chairman of the committee] presiding.

18 Members present: Pallone, Rush, Eshoo, Engel, DeGette,
19 Doyle, Schakowsky, Butterfield, Matsui, Castor, Sarbanes,
20 McNerney, Welch, Lujan, Tonko, Clarke, Loeb sack, Schrader,
21 Kennedy, Cardenas, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kuster,
22 Kelly, Barragan, McEachin, Blunt Rochester, Soto, O'Halleran,
23 Walden, Upton, Shimkus, Burgess, Latta, Rodgers, Guthrie,

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24 Olson, McKinley, Griffith, Bilirakis, Johnson, Long, Bucshon,
25 Flores, Brooks, Mullin, Hudson, Walberg, Carter, Duncan, and
26 Gianforte.

27 Staff present: Jeff Carroll, Staff Director; Jacqueline
28 Cohen, Chief Environment Counsel; Sharon Davis, Chief Clerk;
29 Adam Fischer, Policy Analyst; Jean Fruci, Energy and
30 Environment Policy Advisor; Waverly Gordon, Deputy Chief
31 Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Deputy Staff Director; Omar
32 Guzman-Toro, Policy Analyst; Caitlin Haberman, Professional
33 Staff Member; Alex Hoehn-Saric, Chief Counsel, Communications
34 and Consumer Protection; Stephen Holland, Health Counsel;
35 Zach Kahan, Outreach and Member Service Coordinator; Rick
36 Kessler, Senior Advisor and Staff Director, Energy and
37 Environment; Josh Krantz, Policy Analyst; Brendan Larkin,
38 Policy Coordinator; Una Lee, Chief Health Counsel; Jerry
39 Leverich, Senior Counsel; John Marshall, Policy Coordinator;
40 Dan Miller, Policy Analyst; Elysa Montfort, Press Secretary;
41 Meghan Mullon, Staff Assistant; Phil Murphy, Policy
42 Coordinator; Lisa Olson, FERC Detailee; Joe Orlando, Staff
43 Assistant; Alivia Roberts, Press Assistant; Tim Robinson,
44 Chief Counsel; Chloe Rodriguez, Policy Analyst; Andrew
45 Souvall, Director of Communications, Outreach and Member
46 Services; Benjamin Tabor, Staff Assistant; Kimberlee

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47 Trzeciak, Chief Health Advisor; Teresa Williams, Energy
48 Fellow; Tuley Wright, Energy and Environment Policy Advisor;
49 Mike Bloomquist, Minority Staff Director; S.K. Bowen,
50 Minority Press Assistant; Adam Buckalew, Minority Director of
51 Coalitions and Deputy Chief Counsel, Health; Robin Colwell,
52 Minority Chief Counsel, C&T; Jerry Couri, Minority Deputy
53 Chief Counsel, Environment & Climate Change; Jordan Davis,
54 Minority Senior Advisor; Margaret Tucker Fogarty, Minority
55 Legislative Clerk/Press Assistant; Peter Kielty, Minority
56 General Counsel; Tim Kurth, Minority Deputy Chief Counsel,
57 C&T; Ryan Long, Minority Deputy Staff Director; Mary Martin,
58 Minority Chief Counsel, Energy & Environment & Climate
59 Change; Brandon Mooney, Minority Deputy Chief Counsel,
60 Energy; Brannon Rains, Minority Legislative Clerk; Kristin
61 Seum, Minority Counsel, Health; and Peter Spencer, Minority
62 Senior Professional Staff Member, Environment & Climate
63 Change.

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64 The Chairman. The Committee on Energy and Commerce will
65 now come to order and I will recognize myself for five
66 minutes for an opening statement.

67 Two of our committee's top priorities are strengthening
68 the economy and combating climate change. One of the best
69 ways for Congress to address both of these priorities now is
70 by rebuilding and modernizing our nation's crumbling
71 infrastructure.

72 There is no better day for us to be having this hearing
73 as the president and Democratic leaders are meeting to
74 follow-up on the president's promise to come up with the \$2
75 trillion to pay for, if you will, for our infrastructure
76 package.

77 And today, we are discussing the Leading Infrastructure
78 for Tomorrow's America Act, or the LIFT America Act, which
79 was introduced last week by all 31 committee Democrats.

80 This is a comprehensive bill that addresses critical
81 infrastructure needs across our entire committee's
82 jurisdiction. It will strengthen our economy for the future
83 by creating good-paying jobs and investing in critical clean
84 energy, broadband, drinking water, and health care
85 infrastructure.

86 So as we continue to develop a comprehensive plan to

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87 address climate change, there are many actions we can take
88 now to reduce carbon pollution immediately.

89 LIFT America invests over \$33 billion for clean energy,
90 including \$4 billion to upgrade the electric grid to
91 accommodate more renewable energy and to make it more
92 resilient.

93 It includes \$1.5 billion to facilitate the replacement
94 of leaking gas pipelines, another \$4 billion for the
95 expansion of renewable energy use, including the installation
96 of solar panels in low-income and under-served communities.

97 We also make significant investments in energy
98 efficiency, helping states and communities make our public
99 places more energy efficient and helping homeowners
100 weatherize their homes.

101 We also invest in the development of an electric
102 vehicle-charging network, something that is critical to
103 tackling the greenhouse gas pollution coming from the
104 transportation sector.

105 Collectively, all of these investments will help us take
106 an important step in combating the climate crisis while also
107 strengthening our economy, creating good-paying jobs, and
108 providing some much-needed relief to consumers on their
109 energy bills.

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110 We also make significant investments in the expansion of
111 broadband internet access. For too long, we have heard
112 stories of the sorry state of our nation's digital
113 infrastructure that is simply leaving too many communities
114 behind.

115 We have heard about rural communities whose businesses
116 can't compete without access to the internet. We have heard
117 about kids living in urban broadband deserts that have no
118 other choice than to walk to a nearby McDonald's late after
119 school to access Wi-Fi just to do their homework.

120 And we have heard the tragic calls to 911 of Americans
121 that died during emergencies because when they needed help
122 the system couldn't find them.

123 So the LIFT America Act takes bold steps to ensure a
124 prosperous, fairer, and safer tomorrow. It provides \$40
125 billion to fund connections to the internet for at least 98
126 percent of the country and \$12 billion to upgrade our frail
127 911 infrastructure.

128 And the LIFT America Act also makes critical investments
129 in protecting human health and our environment. We invest
130 more than \$21 billion to protect Americans' drinking water,
131 including \$2.5 billion to establish a new grant program
132 allowing PFAS-affected communities to filter the toxic

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133 chemicals out of their water supplies.

134 We also extend and increase authorizations for the
135 drinking water State Revolving Fund and other safe water
136 programs that we authorized as part of the 2017 Safe Drinking
137 Water Act.

138 And we also further fund the Brownfields program, which
139 has successfully helped communities clean up contaminated
140 sites, remove public health threats, and prepare the sites
141 for development. This is another job creator that spurs
142 local investment and revitalizes communities.

143 And finally, we address our nation's health care
144 infrastructure. In recent years, we have heard of
145 vulnerabilities in the physical structures, cybersecurity,
146 and data system technology in health care facilities.

147 From cyberattacks in hospital data systems that threaten
148 patient privacy to the literal corrosion of pipes in Indian
149 Health Service facilities, our faltering health
150 infrastructure is putting the well-being of patients at risk.

151 So the LIFT America Act responds to these problems by
152 investing in core public health resources at the Centers for
153 Disease Control and Prevention and in state and local health
154 departments.

155 It also directly funds hospital infrastructure, Indian

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156 Health Service facilities, public health labs, and behavioral
157 health clinics to protect or to better protect human health.

158 It is obvious this is a very ambitious plan. A lot is
159 going to depend on to what extent when the House leadership
160 and the Senate meet with the president and decide how it is
161 going to be paid for and how much and how large it will be.

162 But it is, I believe, what is necessary and what is
163 possible under the funding framework that has been outlined
164 so far by the president and Democratic congressional leaders.
165 I don't think we can wait any longer to modernize our
166 nation's aging infrastructure, and I look forward to working
167 with other members of this committee to move this legislation
168 forward.

169 And before I recognize our ranking member, I do want to
170 say as I think most of you know normally we have hearings at
171 the subcommittee level. But this bill has jurisdiction over
172 all the subcommittees. So that's why we decided that we
173 would have a full committee hearing today, because of the
174 breadth and scope of the legislation.

175 So now I'll recognize our ranking member for his opening
176 statement.

177 Mr. Walden. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I assumed
178 because it was your bill we were doing this in full, but just

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179 saying you get to do that as chairman. I kind of remember,
180 sort of.

181 I am encouraged that members from both sides of the
182 aisle as well as President Trump are taking serious interest
183 in what should be a shared priority for all of us, and that's
184 rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and I think we can all
185 agree Republicans and Democrats should be able to come
186 together and work in good faith to do this and make America
187 stronger and better.

188 Mr. Chairman, as you know and as members of this
189 committee know, infrastructure means a lot of things and more
190 than just roads and bridges, which are also important. Last
191 Congress our committee worked together to do I think some
192 pretty significant work on infrastructure improvement in
193 America.

194 We made some great strides to close the digital divide
195 by expanding broadband infrastructure, directing federal
196 resources to target communities that are currently un-served,
197 and trying to streamline the very complex costly federal
198 regulations in order to spur broadband deployment and
199 innovation and have the private sector do a lot of that
200 investment.

201 We were instrumental in ensuring the America's Water

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202 Infrastructure Act was signed into law. This package cut
203 bureaucratic red tape and reauthorized the Safe Drinking
204 Water Act for the first time in more than 20 years -- more
205 than 20 years since that had been done.

206 We did it in a bipartisan way. We provided new tools
207 and resources that state and local governments need to ensure
208 the public has access to clean and safe drinking water.

209 It also promoted hydropower development which creates
210 clean energy jobs here at home and provides consumers with
211 low-cost emissions-free electricity, and I think that was
212 really an important accomplishment in a bipartisan way on our
213 committee.

214 We also reauthorized the EPA's Brownfields program.
215 This program allows EPA, the states, and local governments to
216 work together to redevelop industrial or commercial
217 facilities, create jobs, and provide for local economic
218 development.

219 As I recall from our work there, federal taxpayers get a
220 16 to 1 rate of return when these Brownfield sites are
221 cleaned up and put into productive use.

222 And we worked together to explore solutions to expand,
223 improve, and modernize our energy infrastructure so we can
224 deliver energy to consumers more safely, reliably, and cost

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225 effectively.

226 I always want to put consumers first in this equation.

227 The legislation under consideration today addresses many
228 of these same policies and that is good because there is more
229 work to do. But just authorizing more money to spend may not
230 necessarily achieve what I believe are shared infrastructure
231 goals.

232 I think back to 2009 when the stimulus program was
233 advertised that it would create "shovel ready projects."
234 Unfortunately, many of the jobs that were promised never
235 materialized and billions of taxpayer dollars went into what
236 we later learned were pretty wasteful or duplicative projects
237 because of the speed with which the money had to go out the
238 door.

239 The 2009 stimulus bill put the cart before the horse
240 when it came to spending on broadband deployment without
241 adequate mapping, a subject we are still concerned about in
242 this committee in a bipartisan way, and they didn't know
243 where the un-served or under-served areas were. But the
244 money had to be out the door and spent before the mapping was
245 to be completed.

246 I offered an amendment at the time to correct that
247 reverse problem but it was, unfortunately, rejected.

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248 Instead, we didn't get the maps until after the money was
249 already out the door. Seems kind of backwards.

250 While I am not trying to re-litigate the past, these
251 examples underscore the need to be prudent in how we
252 structure and allocate infrastructure investment and we must
253 ensure that taxpayer dollars are used wisely and we must
254 continually revisit and reevaluate federal programs and
255 regulations to ensure our goals are being met.

256 The LIFT America Act designates new investments in some
257 prudent programs indeed. But I think there are other things
258 that should be looked at as well such as the immediate need
259 to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens for
260 infrastructure projects, action that if taken would yield
261 immediate results.

262 I look at what ratepayers are having to pay or they
263 can't even get access to natural gas in the New England area
264 because of issues over pipelines.

265 We should see that infrastructure get built. The
266 promises of modern energy infrastructure have been held back
267 by what some might call Washington's command and control
268 regulatory regime, and I think we need to recognize that
269 innovation and technology development and market-driven
270 efficiencies ensure economic growth, spur job creation, lower

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271 energy costs for consumers, and make a positive impact
272 addressing climate change risks.

273 So the LIFT America Act also calls for our shared goal
274 of expanding broadband deployment. But we do need to address
275 this mapping issue and I think there is bipartisan agreement
276 on that, and the need for better program coordination.

277 The current lack of coordination and adequate mapping
278 has led to rampant overbuilding in existing programs. We
279 also know the private sector is looking to build out this
280 commitment by T-Mobile and others as part of their merger to
281 reach 99 percent of America and cover it with high-speed
282 broadband is really remarkable, and they face a \$5 billion
283 penalty if they don't deliver if the merger goes through. To
284 me, that is what we want to incent -- private sector doing
285 this.

286 So I appreciate the bills before us and I appreciate the
287 inclusion of next-generation 911, among other things, and
288 look forward to working with you and our colleagues on both
289 sides of the aisle to achieve our mutual goals.

290 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

291 The Chairman. Thank you, and I -- and, obviously, we
292 would like to, as always, report out at some point. You
293 know, this is the beginning of the process, obviously, a bill

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294 that's bipartisan and working with the Republicans and with
295 the president.

296 So the way it works -- those are the opening statements.
297 But if members want to submit written opening statements they
298 will be made part of the record and we are now going to
299 proceed to our panel.

300 And I want to introduce our witnesses. First, on my
301 left, I am very proud that I have the Honorable Brian Wahler,
302 who is mayor of Piscataway Township in my district. But
303 Brian isn't just here because he's a mayor in my district.
304 He's been very active with the National Conference of Mayors
305 in pushing for a number of infrastructure initiatives.

306 When we had -- when we had the legislative hearing on
307 the -- on the energy block grant that was something that he
308 pushed but also the National Conference of Mayors pushed as
309 well. So thank you for being here, Brian. I appreciate you
310 being here.

311 And then we have -- no stranger to this committee -- Ms.
312 Mignon Clyburn, who is now a principal with MLC Strategies
313 but, of course, we knew her for many years as one of the FCC
314 commissioners.

315 And then we have Mr. John Auerbach, who is president and
316 CEO of the Trust for America's Health, Ms. Jessica Eckdish,

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317 legislative director for the BlueGreen Alliance, Mr. Daniel
318 Lyons, visiting fellow from the American Enterprise
319 Institute, and Mr. Christopher Guith -- I hope I got that
320 right -- who is acting president for the Global Energy
321 Institute with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

322 And I want to thank all of you for being here today. We
323 look forward to your testimony. The way it works is I will
324 recognize each of you for five minutes for an opening
325 statement.

326 Let me just mention about the lighting system in front
327 of -- talk about energy, right. In front of you is a series
328 of lights and the light will initially be green at the start
329 of your opening statement.

330 The light will then turn yellow when you have one minute
331 remaining and then you should try to wrap up your testimony
332 at that point, and then the light turns red when your time
333 expires.

334 So we are going to go from left to right and start with
335 Mayor Wahler. Thank you, Mayor.

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336 STATEMENTS OF THE HONORABLE BRIAN C. WAHLER, MAYOR,
337 PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY, ON BEHALF OF THE U.S.
338 CONFERENCE OF MAYORS; MIGNON L. CLYBURN, PRINCIPAL, MLC
339 STRATEGIES, LLC; JESSICA ECKDISH, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR,
340 BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE; DANIEL LYONS, VISITING FELLOW, AMERICAN
341 ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (AEI); CHRISTOPHER GUTH, ACTING
342 PRESIDENT, GLOBAL ENERGY INSTITUTE, U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
343 AND JOHN AUERBACH, MBA, PRESIDENT AND CEO, TRUST FOR
344 AMERICA'S HEALTH

345

346 STATEMENT OF MR. WAHLER

347 Mr. Wahler. Good morning.

348 Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and members of
349 the committee, I want to thank you for the invitation today
350 to discuss H.R. 2741, Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's
351 America -- the LIFT Act.

352 My name is Brian Wahler, the mayor of Piscataway
353 Township in New Jersey, and I am testifying on behalf of the
354 United States Conference of Mayors in support of this bill.

355 Infrastructure is inherently local and this is where
356 infrastructure improvements are most needed. Local
357 governments have outperformed the federal and state
358 governments in growing new revenue for many of our

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359 infrastructure needs.

360 But we need federal government to do its part. The LIFT
361 Act will do just that. The bill addresses many priorities
362 for the nation's communities including additional allocations
363 for safe drinking water, Brownfields programs. But for today
364 I just want to focus on energy components of this bill.

365 Cities must be an integral part of the nation's energy
366 strategy because cities drive the nation's economy engine.
367 An IHS study estimated that metro economies in 2017 were home
368 to 91 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, 92
369 percent of the wage income, and 88 percent of the nation's
370 jobs.

371 Our metro economies and businesses within our
372 communities generate tax revenues that you appropriate.
373 These economic factors suggest that any national strategy to
374 address energy needs, climate change, and reduce pollution
375 must include communities both big and small that comprise our
376 metro areas.

377 Local government recognize the value in energy demand
378 management as possible by weatherization and smart building
379 technologies. Weatherization programs have proven reliable
380 over time and now smart building controls have potential
381 effect for reductions of energy use and increased cost

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382 savings.

383 Solar installation for low-income and under-served
384 communities target an economic group that struggles to afford
385 basic utilities. This program will help reduce energy costs
386 for low-income households.

387 We also support the clean distribution energy systems
388 provision that will promote energy diversity and resiliency
389 by creating energy systems that will not totally rely on
390 central transmission lines and traditional vulnerabilities.

391 The conference particularly recommends the committee for
392 including reauthorization of the EECBG program, which is a
393 top priority of the nation's mayors and local governments.

394 EECB focuses on energy infrastructure investment at the
395 local level and will help promote energy independence,
396 reliability, efficiencies with the goal to achieve clean
397 energy, clean air, and consumer savings.

398 Recipients of the EEC funds are required to develop
399 comprehensive energy plans for their community, and with more
400 than a dozen eligible applications for grant money, this is
401 enough flexibility to meet many community needs.

402 When the program was previously funded, many communities
403 leveraged their resources to add additional to the grant
404 moneys and this was a positive local regional multiplier

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405 effect.

406 An Oak Ridge Laboratories report commended the program
407 as one of the most successful programs in bringing energy
408 efficiency and conservation to the communities.

409 EEC is the single most important way to kick-start local
410 investment because the greatest impediment to infrastructure
411 investment is finding the necessary capital.

412 In my own city we used our EEC money to put solar panels
413 on our public works department. This solar array produced
414 more than 1.5 million kilowatt hours, replacing fossil fuels
415 and reducing air pollutants.

416 Last year we signed a contract with Great Eastern
417 Energy. Now 20 percent of our energy that we use for
418 municipal purposes comes from renewable sources.

419 This is projected to save more than 4.3 million
420 kilowatts of fossil fuels-created electricity over two years.
421 We now require many new developments within our community to
422 have electric vehicle plug-in charging stations in their
423 parking areas, which also includes government facilities
424 where we are building a new community center.

425 By authorizing and funding this program you will jump
426 start or enhance over a thousand communities nationwide to do
427 energy efficiency, conservation, clean energy projects.

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428 Simply put, the federal government does not have access
429 to diverse building and fleet sectors as local communities
430 do. We need a strong federal partnership for H.R. 2741. It
431 provides a practical framework to move forward.

432 I want to thank you, Chairman Pallone, and the committee
433 for inviting me to testify today. We are at a critical
434 juncture in areas of infrastructure, climate change, and I
435 strongly urge on behalf of the nation's mayors that the
436 committee and this Congress pass a fully funded and the much-
437 needed legislation.

438 Thank you.

439 [The prepared statement of Mr. Wahler follows:]

440

441 *****INSERT 1*****

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442 The Chairman. Thank you, Mayor, and thank you for being
443 here.

444 And next I will recognize Ms. Clyburn for five minutes,
445 and thank you also for being here.

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446 STATEMENT OF MS. CLYBURN

447

448 Ms. Clyburn. Thank you.

449 Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, members of the
450 committee, thank you for inviting me here to testify this
451 morning.

452 For almost nine years I had the privilege of serving on
453 the Federal Communications Commission. During my tenure, I
454 was afforded the opportunity to travel across this great
455 nation and around the world where I witnessed first hand the
456 transformative power of broadband.

457 Unfortunately, too many Americans, including those in
458 rural communities, remain unable to harness the incredible
459 power of connectivity.

460 Since the FCC released its national broadband plan
461 almost 10 years ago, it has been focused on closing the
462 broadband availability gap. We still have a long way to go,
463 which is why I ask that you go big and be bold.

464 The LIFT America Act contemplates a \$40 billion infusion
465 of capital for broadband infrastructure, almost 10 times the
466 annual amount of CAF funding currently available.

467 While that is, indeed, a significant number, what is
468 clear is that this level of investment is necessary. Based

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469 on my past experience as a regulator, allow me to offer a few
470 principles for your consideration.

471 The act should prioritize capital expenditures for
472 communities currently without broadband-capable
473 infrastructure. By this I mean those areas in both rural and
474 urban America that don't even have 10/1 speed.

475 Determinations of where support is needed to deploy
476 broadband should be based on reliable and verifiable coverage
477 maps. Everyone is frustrated because more needs to be done
478 to improve the FCC maps.

479 The current maps should not be exclusively used for any
480 proceeding including for funding purposes at this time. What
481 the FCC needs to do is immediately act on its pending
482 proceeding to update Form 477 and produce a reliable map so
483 that we can know precisely where the areas are that don't
484 have 10/1 coverage.

485 It is also very important that this investment is viewed
486 through a once-only lens, and what I mean by that is
487 taxpayers should be asked to fund broadband infrastructure
488 only one time and that infrastructure should be robust and
489 capable of serving their communities long into the future.

490 The U.S. lags behind European and Asian countries that
491 are planning to deliver high-speed broadband infrastructure

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492 that can be upgraded cost effectively. Online demand is
493 increasing, which means we need robust networks to handle
494 that demand.

495 Since we are going big and bold with LIFT, Congress
496 should invest the money in infrastructure that will deliver
497 high-speed broadband of at least one gig symmetrical service.
498 This should put our country on par with others and catch us
499 up to those who are ahead.

500 The bill can remain competitively and technologically
501 neutral but it must be refined to give projects that can
502 deliver 1 gig service a bidding preference.

503 Similarly, where 1 gig can be upgraded to deliver even
504 higher speeds quickly and at a lower cost, the bill should
505 include that as a positive in the waiting process.

506 As Commissioner O'Rielly has said, we must coordinate
507 all of the government broadband funding mechanisms to avoid
508 duplication, which will ensure that we will get as much bang
509 from our limited bucks as possible.

510 Accordingly, new funding provided by LIFT should be
511 restricted to those un-served areas that aren't receiving
512 funds from other programs. Moreover, as Chairman Pai has
513 discussed, reverse auctions have delivered incredible
514 benefits and have saved taxpayer money.

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515 Reverse auctions should be embraced. Simply speaking,
516 they are more efficient and more effective.

517 I would like to commend you, Chairman Pallone, and all
518 who have been working on LIFT for your leadership in securing
519 a brighter economic future for those Americans whose dreams
520 have yet to be realized.

521 Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning
522 and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

523 [The prepared statement of Ms. Clyburn follows:]

524

525 *****INSERT 2*****

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526 The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Clyburn. Thank you for
527 being here today and for all you did at the FCC.

528 So next we have Ms. Eckdish. You are recognized for
529 five minutes.

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530 STATEMENT OF MS. ECKDISH

531

532 Ms. Eckdish. Good morning.

533 Thank you, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and
534 members of the committee. My name is Jessica Eckdish. I am
535 the legislative director of the BlueGreen Alliance.

536 On behalf of my organization, our partners, and the
537 millions of members and supporters they represent, I want to
538 thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

539 The BlueGreen Alliance unites America's largest labor
540 unions and most influential environmental organizations
541 around the belief that we don't have to choose between a good
542 job and a clean environment. We can and must have both.

543 Investing in repairing and modernizing our nation's
544 infrastructure is a clear example of this principle. If done
545 right, a federal infrastructure package will boost our
546 economy and create millions of jobs while simultaneously
547 reducing pollution, combatting climate change, and
548 strengthening our communities.

549 The LIFT America Act is a key step in this direction.
550 Failing infrastructure is a critical threat to our
551 communities, from crumbling bridges and contaminated drinking
552 water to inefficient and unhealthy schools, power outages,

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553 and dangerous and leaky gas distribution pipes under our
554 cities.

555 These problems are only getting worse. The historic
556 2017 hurricane season laid waste to Puerto Rico, the U.S.
557 Virgin Islands, Texas, and Florida, plunging millions of
558 Americans into darkness and further aggravating an already
559 desperate need for safe water.

560 As the world's climate continues to change, the
561 deteriorating state of our infrastructure becomes a vicious
562 circle. As our systems crumble and become more inefficient,
563 the excess pollution exacerbates climate change, and as our
564 climate changes, more extreme weather tests our already
565 strained infrastructure systems, endangering the health and
566 safety of our communities.

567 BlueGreen Alliance research has found that investing an
568 estimated \$2.2 trillion in a variety of infrastructure
569 sectors to improve them from a D+ grade to a B grade has the
570 potential to support or create an additional 14.5 million job
571 years across the U.S. economy, add \$1.66 trillion to GDP over
572 10 years, and reduce greenhouse gas pollution versus a
573 business as usual approach.

574 Last week we released a set of 14 infrastructure policy
575 priorities in key sectors including energy transmission,

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576 distribution, and storage, transportation, water, schools,
577 and other buildings, broadband, natural infrastructure,
578 climate resilience, and manufacturing.

579 Making these smart investments has the potential to
580 deliver millions of good jobs, reduce climate and toxic
581 pollution, and make our communities more resilient, but only
582 if we do this the right way.

583 In order to maximize these benefits for communities, the
584 environment, and workers, there are five principles that any
585 legislation must follow.

586 First, any infrastructure package must create quality
587 family-sustaining jobs. This means ensuring that all
588 projects are subject to Buy America and Davis-Bacon standards
589 that bolster American manufacturing and ensure that workers
590 are paid a prevailing wage.

591 It means utilizing project labor agreements, community
592 benefit agreements, and other provisions that improve
593 training, working conditions, and project benefits, and it
594 means maintaining and growing jobs in the public sector to
595 support all of this work as well as respecting collective
596 bargaining agreements and workers' organizing rights.

597 Second, an infrastructure package must deliver climate
598 benefits and reduce pollution, a range of investments from

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599 natural infrastructure and grid modernization to repairing
600 and replacing aging gas distribution pipes, that all deliver
601 significant greenhouse gas emission and other pollutant
602 reductions.

603 Third, this package must make our communities more
604 resilient. This means driving forward-looking planning and
605 investments that build for the future, not the past, and that
606 make our infrastructure systems and communities more
607 resilient to the impacts of climate change. This must
608 include prioritizing natural infrastructure solutions.

609 Fourth, an infrastructure package must maximize benefits
610 to workers in communities, especially those most in need.
611 Our infrastructure investments must provide economic
612 opportunities for low-income communities, communities of
613 color, women, and local workers across the country.

614 Finally, any infrastructure package must begin with a
615 robust public investment and must tackle the broad array of
616 our infrastructure needs.

617 The LIFT America Act embodies these five principles and
618 takes a significant step towards addressing our country's
619 infrastructure challenge. We are particularly pleased to see
620 efforts included in the bill to address drinking water
621 infrastructure, electric grid resiliency and modernization,

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622 school energy efficiency, methane emissions from natural gas
623 distribution lines, and broadband access.

624 While the bill also includes necessary conditions to
625 ensure domestic content, prevailing wage, and other benefits
626 for workers and communities, there are opportunities to
627 expand these provisions across the bill.

628 Preparing America's infrastructure systems is both
629 urgently needed and an enormous opportunity. We look forward
630 to working with this committee as this bill moves forward to
631 ensure the strongest possible outcome for workers and our
632 environment.

633 Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

634 [The prepared statement of Ms. Eckdish follows:]

635

636 *****INSERT 3*****

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637 The Chairman. Thank you so much.

638 I next recognize for five minutes Professor -- is it

639 Professor? Professor Lyons, yes.

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640 STATEMENT OF MR. LYONS

641

642 Mr. Lyons. Thank you.

643 Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and members of
644 the committee, thank you for allowing me to appear before you
645 today.

646 My name is Daniel Lyons. I am a visiting fellow at the
647 American Enterprise Institute and I am a professor at Boston
648 College Law School where I study telecommunications and
649 internet policy.

650 My remarks are focussed on the LIFT America Act's
651 broadband provisions. According to the FCC's latest
652 estimates, approximately 20 million Americans lack access to
653 high-speed fixed broadband networks.

654 That means a little more than one in 20 Americans are
655 sitting on the wrong side of the digital divide solely
656 because of where they live.

657 The LIFT America Act addresses this problem by
658 allocating \$40 billion to subsidize broadband network
659 construction in un-served areas.

660 The program reflects a key recommendation of the FCC's
661 national broadband plan that government assistance should
662 take the form of one-time construction aid rather than the

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663 on-going carrier subsidies that mark the telephone era high-
664 cost fund.

665 The act adopts many of the best practices developed at
666 the FCC while experimenting with similar subsidies through
667 the Connect America Fund. Perhaps most significantly, it
668 uses a reverse auction mechanism to distribute funds.

669 This helps assure that taxpayers will get the biggest
670 bang for their buck by awarding funds to projects that will
671 connect an area at the lowest expense and it also mandates
672 that funds be distributed on a technology-neutral basis.

673 This is important because -- both because un-served
674 areas are geographically diverse and also because innovations
675 like 5G networking and low earth orbit satellites could bring
676 disruptive new forms of competition to broadband markets.

677 Studies show that wired deployment typically plateaus at
678 about 70 percent of the country. So making room for
679 disruptive new technologies can help us reach that last 30
680 percent more efficiently, the way that satellite companies
681 helped fill in the rural gaps in the pay television market.

682 FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has explained that with the
683 Connect America fund the reverse auction structure and the
684 technology-neutral limitation or mandate sparked competition
685 that reduced their estimated subsidy costs by 70 percent.

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686 Areas they expected to wire for \$5 billion they instead are
687 wiring for \$1.5 billion.

688 And I also appreciate that the act sets aside one-
689 quarter of its funds to be administered directly by states.
690 Back when I was applying for professor positions my job talk
691 focused on the importance of state regulators, and it turns
692 out that for law professors, telecommunications federalism
693 isn't a super sexy topic like constitutional rights. So I am
694 actually really glad to see that you are taking it seriously
695 here on the Hill.

696 State regulators have local knowledge and they are often
697 in a much better position than their federal counterparts to
698 know where the gaps in coverage are in particular locations
699 and how to best go about fixing them.

700 There are, I think, a few places where I would push back
701 on the draft bill. The first is a requirement that the state
702 funds be allocated in direct proportion to the population of
703 each state.

704 This, I think, could steer funding in suboptimal ways
705 because total population is not a good proxy for broadband
706 need. Broadband service is most economically delivered in
707 population-dense areas where there is more customers per
708 square mile and so that means that un-served areas of the

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709 country that are targeted by the act are more likely to skew
710 rural.

711 Allocating dollars based on state population could have
712 the unintended consequence of favoring rural areas in states
713 that also happen to have a big city over those states that
714 don't have a big city, even though the existence of a city
715 probably doesn't tell us much about the state's funding need.

716 It would be better, I think, to allocate funds on the
717 basis of each state's un-served population, which I think
718 better directs the money toward those who the act is designed
719 to benefit.

720 I think this is especially problematic when coupled with
721 the act's inclusion of funds to aid under-served areas.
722 Unlike un-served areas where internet access is lacking,
723 under served has an existing provider.

724 So subsidies to under-served areas effectively subsidize
725 a new company to come in and challenge an existing broadband
726 provider. In a sense, this would punish companies that
727 invested private dollars to serve a challenging area by
728 making it harder for them to compete.

729 And although the act says that states can only fund
730 under-served areas if all of the un-served areas in the state
731 are addressed, the allocation of funds on the basis of

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732 population could lead to some states quickly filling their
733 un-served areas and then pouring money into under-served
734 areas, while some other states with smaller populations are
735 still struggling to connect anybody at all.

736 And I think this one related issue is the act's minimum
737 service standards. The act requires recipients to provide
738 100 megabits download service. I think before picking a
739 benchmark, it is helpful for the committee to think about how
740 much service the average consumer needs because otherwise you
741 risk over investing in specific projects at the cost of
742 completing fewer projects.

743 I previously have proposed that policy makers adopt an
744 activity-based approach. Identify the core activities that
745 are essential to participating in online society and then
746 figure out how much speed you need in order to be able to do
747 those things.

748 And, finally, I think it is important to remember that
749 availability is only one driver of the digital divide.
750 Issues like affordability and digital literacy also become a
751 really important part in the need to close the digital divide
752 and make sure we have universal connectivity.

753 Thank you.

754 [The prepared statement of Mr. Lyons follows:]

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755

756

*****INSERT 4*****

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757 The Chairman. Thank you, Professor.

758 Next we have Mr. Guith. You are recognized for five

759 minutes.

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760 STATEMENT OF MR. GUIETH

761

762 Mr. Guith. Thank you, and good morning, Chairman
763 Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and members of the committee.

764 The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify today
765 on the importance of bolstering the nation's clean energy and
766 water infrastructure.

767 America's energy infrastructure provides a complex
768 system of vital arteries, making real-time deliveries of
769 electricity, natural gas, and liquid fuels and products to
770 ever corner of the country to satisfy consumer demand.

771 With more than 2.7 million miles of pipeline and 7
772 million miles of electric lines, the United States has the
773 largest, most advanced, and most interconnected energy system
774 in the world.

775 With some limited exceptions, America's energy
776 infrastructure has been privately funded and -- privately
777 built and financed. It serves as an economic engine that
778 literally fuels and powers the entire economy from coast to
779 coast.

780 As the U.S. energy landscape continues to change, the
781 need to site, permit, and build new energy infrastructure
782 predictably and transparently is increasingly important to

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783 capture the economic and environmental benefits provided by
784 American innovation.

785 Unfortunately, the permitting process is neither, which
786 discourages investment and often delays or prevents new
787 energy infrastructure from being built, robbing the country
788 of the economic environmental benefits.

789 As Congress considers infrastructure legislation, it is
790 imperative that permit streamlining be included as part of
791 it. As general principles within infrastructure, the Chamber
792 believes the time has come to enact a federal infrastructure
793 modernization plan to provide every American a 21st century
794 system. We urge elected officials in Washington to take
795 charge and tackle the problem with both adequate funding and
796 a long-term plan. This morning, an op-ed written by Chamber
797 President Tom Donohue and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka in
798 the Washington Post notes that "Rebuilding and modernizing
799 our nation's crumbling infrastructure will benefit every
800 business, every worker, and every family in the United
801 States."

802 Last year, the Chamber laid out four pillars the
803 administration and Congress should consider including an
804 infrastructure modernization debate and today I am going to
805 focus on just one -- streamlining the permitting process.

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806 There is a growing consensus that the federal permitting
807 regime is moribund and inefficient, discouraging capital
808 investments in new and upgraded infrastructure the market is
809 demanding.

810 This reduces the economic security and environmental
811 benefits Americans could realize from these new investments.
812 Ignoring permitting reform would prolong an inadequate,
813 inefficient, and often counterproductive system of
814 bureaucratic review that provides decreasingly less certainty
815 to project sponsors and investors and ultimately defeats the
816 goal of these legislative efforts to build infrastructure.

817 Any infrastructure proposal that fails to reform the
818 permitting system risks losing Chamber support. As our
819 president, Tom Donohue, has said, it should not take longer
820 to approve a project than build it.

821 The Chamber believes that all federal infrastructure
822 approvals should be completed within two years and shepherded
823 by a single lead agency. The administration has implemented
824 the one federal decision and a two-year review via executive
825 order and now it is up to Congress to codify these provisions
826 so that we have long-term certainty that projects can be
827 completed in a timely and efficient manner.

828 Additionally, we need Congress's continued commitment to

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829 the reforms it created in FAST-41. The Permitting Dashboard
830 and Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council created
831 by FAST-41 have already paid dividends for dozens of clean
832 energy infrastructure projects ranging from wind to solar to
833 hydroelectric to natural gas, in addition to flood mitigation
834 and coastal restoration.

835 In total, more than half of the projects tracked on the
836 PFISC Dashboard are clean energy projects and passage of
837 FAST-41 represented a major bipartisan accomplishment,
838 garnering support from both environmental organizations and
839 the business community.

840 Congress should permanently reauthorize FAST-41 in any
841 infrastructure passage.

842 And now turning to the LIFT Act. The Chamber
843 appreciates the introduction of the LIFT America Act and
844 recognizes Chairman Pallone and members of this committee for
845 their leadership and efforts to deliver what we believe could
846 be historic legislation.

847 While Chamber members have significant interest in this
848 entire legislative effort, I have focused testimony on clean
849 energy infrastructure and drinking water infrastructure.

850 While we continue to analyse this legislation, there are
851 many parts of it that could benefit the U.S. economy and

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852 foster cleaner lower-emitting technologies.

853 Specifically, we support reauthorization of the diesel
854 emissions reduction program and the weatherization assistance
855 program as well as authorized increases in water
856 infrastructure investments and Brownfields redevelopment.

857 The creation of the assistance for community water
858 systems affected by PFAS is also welcome. And finally, on
859 the general topic of funding, we would be concerned if moneys
860 appropriated for these activities come at the expense of
861 existing were crucial to fostering innovation through the
862 federal complex.

863 In general, however, the Chamber is supportive of many
864 of the authorized and reauthorized programs created in the
865 LIFT Act, and as we continue our analysis and member
866 consultation, we commit to working with the committee to
867 ensure that this legislation provides the greatest
868 improvements in energy infrastructure while minimizing
869 unintended consequences.

870 In conclusion, the U.S. is in the midst of a historic
871 energy shift, both from scarcity to abundance but also to
872 lower emitting and environmentally sustainable. The ability
873 to build new infrastructure and facilities harnessing this
874 innovation is crucial to bring economic and environmental

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875 benefits to America.

876 To bring these technologies and innovation to bear,
877 Congress must make the federal permitting process more
878 transparent and predictable. Only when that happens will the
879 nation benefit from increased investment and traditional
880 surface infrastructure but also the energy infrastructure
881 that will help facilitate continued economic growth and a
882 cleaner future.

883 Thank you.

884 [The prepared statement of Mr. Guith follows:]

885 *****INSERT 5*****

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886 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Guith.

887 And then finally we have Mr. Auerbach recognized for

888 five minutes.

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889 STATEMENT OF MR. AUERBACH

890

891 Mr. Auerbach. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Ranking
892 Member, and members of the committee.

893 I am John Auerbach, the president and CEO of Trust for
894 America's Health. We are an independent nonpartisan non-
895 profit public health policy research and advocacy
896 organization, and we are grateful that the LIFT America Act
897 includes the needs of public health and health care in the
898 consideration of the nation's essential infrastructure.

899 Such an investment will literally save lives. The
900 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state,
901 local, tribal, and territorial health departments and
902 community partners need a well-functioning infrastructure to
903 prevent and respond to major public health threats in order
904 to protect the American public.

905 That infrastructure includes the facilities and
906 equipment such as governmental laboratories, up-to-date data
907 and information systems, and a highly-skilled and qualified
908 workforce, including those who are on the front lines when a
909 deadly infectious disease or a dangerous environmental hazard
910 needs to be contained.

911 Over my 30-year career I have held senior positions in

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912 public health as Boston's health commissioner during 9/11, as
913 the Massachusetts' health commissioner during the H1N1
914 outbreak, and at CDC during the Ebola and the Zika crises,
915 and I have led efforts to combat opioid addiction, the
916 obesity crisis, and environmental contaminants, and I have
917 seen through the years the importance of public health in
918 preventing disease and injury and saving lives during
919 emergencies and outbreaks.

920 But all too often, health departments are under
921 resourced and understaffed, and inhibited by a crumbling
922 infrastructure.

923 Public health is traditionally funded with scores of
924 line items, each one representing a distinct disease or
925 condition. But some resources are needed that extend beyond
926 a single health issue. That is where infrastructure funding
927 is so crucial.

928 An investment in core public health infrastructure gives
929 public health the foundation needed to tackle a wide range of
930 health issues and reduce preventable deaths.

931 The public health system now faces unprecedented 21st
932 century challenges ranging from the opioid epidemic to
933 extreme weather to emerging infectious diseases, and is doing
934 so in many cases with 20th century infrastructure.

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935 My organization released a report last month, "The
936 Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health
937 System," where we found that outdated and underfunded
938 resources are preventing the public health system from
939 adequately tackling leading health threats and contributing
940 to the startling fact that the U.S. life expectancy rate has
941 declined for the third year in a row.

942 Let me offer some examples. As public health
943 departments are on the ground working across sectors to
944 prevent and respond to health threats such as food
945 contaminated with salmonella, Zika, Ebola, and now measles,
946 there are many times when there are dangerous delays in
947 responding due to the weakness of the public health
948 infrastructure.

949 During the Zika outbreak, health departments in most
950 states were not able to conduct the confirmatory laboratory
951 tests. So that samples would have to be flown by commercial
952 airlines to the CDC in Atlanta.

953 And even CDC lacked the resources to respond immediately
954 to the volume of requests. As a local and state health
955 commissioner, I sometimes waited for days for a crucial test
956 result due to a lack of capacity.

957 Technology is now constantly improving and offering

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958 state-of-the-art potential approaches such as advanced
959 molecular detection. But without continued investment we
960 can't fully access these breakthroughs.

961 In addition, the success of public health relies upon
962 accurate and timely data. But it is shocking to continue to
963 hear stories of reports of diseases that are filled out by
964 hand -- those reports are filled out by hand by doctors and
965 faxed at the point that a fax machine becomes available,
966 rather than real-time reporting through the internet.

967 There are parts of the country that are still
968 communicating such time-sensitive information the way we did
969 a half century ago. Just two days ago, I met with local
970 health officials from coast to coast and I heard horror
971 stories of the lack of adequate health information
972 technology.

973 Rural public health departments without regular internet
974 access, urban health departments that weren't receiving
975 essential information from electronic medical records of
976 nearly hospitals, missed opportunities to inform the public
977 with social media, which is the key way we receive
978 information now, and health department after health
979 department highlighted the need for highly-skilled personnel
980 to oversee these systems.

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981 This committee has worked tirelessly on the Pandemic and
982 All-Hazards Preparedness Act, which aims to strengthen
983 capacity to find health risks before they grow out of
984 control.

985 Yet, this goal remains aspirational without a major
986 investment in the public health infrastructure.

987 Thank you for including public health and health care in
988 the LIFT America Act. Doing so is well worth it in terms of
989 lives saved, illnesses and injuries, and expensive health
990 care costs that are averted.

991 Thank you.

992 [The prepared statement of Mr. Auerbach follows:]

993

994 *****INSERT 6*****

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995 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Auerbach, and thank all of
996 our witnesses. That concludes our openings and now we are
997 going to move to member questions. Each member will have
998 five minutes to ask questions of our witnesses and I will
999 start by recognizing myself for five minutes.

1000 There are two vitally important goals that we want to
1001 accomplish with the LIFT America Act. One is to rebuild and
1002 modernize our infrastructure to sustain a high standard of
1003 living for Americans and a competitive efficient economy, and
1004 then second, to redesign and reorient our infrastructure to
1005 deal with the climate change that we can't avoid and to
1006 prevent further damage to the climate system, our society,
1007 and our economy.

1008 So I want to start with Ms. Eckdish. Are the direct and
1009 indirect employment effects of increasing federal support for
1010 infrastructure projects significant and does the BlueGreen
1011 Alliance see a linkage between infrastructure investments and
1012 reducing greenhouse gas pollution?

1013 I know you have touched on that in your opening but if
1014 you would develop it a little bit. Not too much because I
1015 have to ask other questions.

1016 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you, Chairman Pallone, for
1017 the question.

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1018 Yes, we absolutely see significant employment
1019 opportunities through infrastructure investments as well as
1020 opportunities to address greenhouse gas emissions. As I
1021 mentioned in my testimony, we see a nearly 15 million job
1022 creation opportunity from investing in infrastructure from
1023 the construction side through manufacturing of components
1024 that go into these infrastructure systems.

1025 We also see a significant nexus with climate benefits
1026 both in terms of the investments that can reduce greenhouse
1027 gas emissions. I will give one quick example. The LIFT
1028 America Act addresses grid modernization.

1029 Full implementation of a national smart grid could
1030 reduce U.S. CO2 emissions by 12 percent. That is just one
1031 example of the emissions reductions we could see from
1032 infrastructure investments.

1033 We also know that investing in infrastructure can help
1034 in terms of the impacts that we know are coming and already
1035 here from climate change including extreme weather events,
1036 sea level rise, storm surges.

1037 Every dollar invested in prevention today reduce costs
1038 by \$6 in the future. So a significant return on investment
1039 and making our communities more resilient to climate impacts.

1040 The Chairman. Thank you.

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1041 Let me go to Mayor Wahler. Do you believe that the
1042 infrastructure investments are one way to meet -- well, let
1043 me say this, Mayor.

1044 Mayors and other local government officials have taken a
1045 strong position in fighting climate change, including
1046 yourself, and calling on the federal government to do more to
1047 meet the challenge of climate change.

1048 So, Mayor, do you believe that infrastructure
1049 investments are one way to meet that challenge and how will
1050 additional federal support for infrastructure help cities
1051 accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy?

1052 Mr. Wahler. One of the advantages of this bill is it
1053 lays out a five-year program and one of the things that towns
1054 and cities and counties need to do is have -- be able to lay
1055 out a long-term plan.

1056 In the past, when there was just a one shot funding
1057 there that didn't allow communities to do that. There are a
1058 lot of things that towns and cities can do.

1059 For instance, over the last 10 years between water and
1060 infrastructure projects within communities towns and cities
1061 have spent over \$80 billion in funds there. So towns and
1062 cities do have skin in the game.

1063 We are just asking for a partnership to help along with

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1064 some long-term planning and in cases -- a lot of cases that
1065 towns and cities need seed money to leverage that public-
1066 private partnership to accomplish those goals.

1067 The Chairman. Thank you.

1068 I am going to turn now to Ms. Clyburn on the broadband.

1069 According to a 2017 FCC study, we can build out
1070 incredibly high-speed broadband internet access to 98 percent
1071 of the country with the \$40 billion that we have in the bill.
1072 For that price we are talking about in-home broadband that
1073 could deliver gigabit speeds. To achieve that goal, we
1074 authorize \$40 billion to connect the unconnected.

1075 So in your experience, Commissioner -- I will still call
1076 you that. Once a commissioner, always.

1077 [Laughter.]

1078 The Chairman. What will it mean for families in rural
1079 areas or urban broadband deserts to have access to in-home
1080 high speed or even gig speed internet service?

1081 Ms. Clyburn. It will allow individuals to make a choice
1082 to stay or to leave -- that infrastructure that does not
1083 exist in those communities is forcing the young to leave
1084 these communities and causing brain drain in so many areas.

1085 It would put a substantial down payment to address that.
1086 It will allow opportunities in telehealth and telemedicine,

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1087 and remote educational opportunities that do not exist --
1088 classrooms and schools that do not have the infrastructure at
1089 present.

1090 This is an equalizer. This would be a great equalizer
1091 for those areas that don't have the infrastructure to serve
1092 those communities.

1093 The Chairman. And then, lastly, can you explain --
1094 well, in the LIFT America Act we have critical coordination
1095 language so that the FCC and state-administered reverse
1096 auctions don't undermine other current and future federal
1097 investment, and you mentioned that language.

1098 Could you just explain what could happen if we didn't
1099 include the coordinate language in the bill?

1100 Ms. Clyburn. Duplication, inefficiencies, and goals not
1101 being met, you know, simply put. You have got a mixture of
1102 state and federal agencies that all mean well, but they are
1103 not talking to each other.

1104 So, you know, a lot of conflict and, as I mentioned,
1105 duplication and goals that are not harmonized are really
1106 causing a lot of inefficiencies and this will force everyone
1107 to speak to each other and force efficiency and that will
1108 allow more bang for our buck and more infrastructure being
1109 built to where it is needed.

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1110 The Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner.

1111 I now recognize Mr. Walden for five minutes.

1112 Mr. Walden. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to
1113 thank all our panellists. We appreciate your testimony today
1114 and your guidance and counsel as we work on these issues.

1115 I want to ask Mr. Lyons, the RAY BAUM'S Act and the
1116 inclusion of MOBILE NOW was a big success last Congress, and
1117 it was also a lesson that streamlining and permitting are
1118 just as important for broadband deployment as spending money
1119 alone.

1120 This is a multi-jurisdictional effort and I believe
1121 there is some understanding needed on how NEPA, the National
1122 Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic
1123 Preservation Act, impact the expedited deployment schedule in
1124 this legislation.

1125 If we are going to be successful, and we understandably
1126 want to be sensitive of both the environment and to, of
1127 course, historic properties and all, but how do we work
1128 through that and get things like 5G built out?

1129 Your comments?

1130 Mr. Lyons. Thanks for the question.

1131 I think that is absolutely right that if your goal is to
1132 add broadband to places where it is currently uneconomical,

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1133 there are two ways to that, right.

1134 Adding subsidies on the one end but also lifting
1135 existing barriers to infrastructure build out is equally
1136 important and we have learned through a number of FCC
1137 initiatives that activities that can lift the existing
1138 barriers to make it easier to go, for example, dig one
1139 strategy --

1140 Mr. Walden. Right. I was going to ask you --

1141 Mr. Lyons. -- can be super helpful in making it
1142 cheaper to deploy broadband and therefore more economical in
1143 places where regulatory burdens may otherwise be problematic.

1144 You are right that we don't want to ride roughshod over,
1145 you know, environmental regulation. But we have to recognize
1146 also that the more decision makers there are in the process
1147 the more veto gates there are to getting projects done.

1148 Mr. Walden. Yes.

1149 Mr. Lyons. And veto gates means more difficult --
1150 delays in getting the projects completed.

1151 Mr. Walden. Well, and I know -- and I am from the
1152 Northwest, not the Northeast -- but, you know, we have this
1153 constricted flow of, for example, natural gas. There was a
1154 building I read about recently had been built to hook up to
1155 natural and guess what? They don't have access to enough

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1156 natural gas so now they are going to use propane.

1157 And you know all that -- the blocking of the pipelines
1158 and power lines, and I realize the public needs to have a
1159 voice in these issues. But it comes to a point where we are
1160 using heating oil and we are somehow, I don't know, subsidize
1161 whatever we do with that.

1162 The ratepayers are paying more. The environment doesn't
1163 benefit and you have these constricted flows, and it seems to
1164 me it does not benefit anybody other than the industry that
1165 is out there designed to shut down any progress on energy
1166 development.

1167 Mr. Lyons. Agreed, and I am a -- so I will preface this
1168 by saying I am a big fan of federalism. I think state
1169 regulators have a really important role to play.

1170 Mr. Walden. I agree, up to a point.

1171 Mr. Lyons. But they are -- they are focusing on what is
1172 important for their state, right, and there are some times
1173 when what is best for a particular state is not what is best
1174 for the economy as a whole, right.

1175 So, for example, hypothetically, right, you get a
1176 pipeline that is coming down from Canada into Massachusetts.
1177 It has to traverse New Hampshire. If New Hampshire residents
1178 aren't benefiting from that, then they many not want, you

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1179 know, to cut through.

1180 Mr. Walden. Right.

1181 Mr. Lyons. If it is something that is great for the
1182 whole but not so great -- hypothetically -- if it is great
1183 for the economy as a whole but it is not -- but a particular
1184 state has a veto authority, we need to make sure that --

1185 Mr. Walden. This is the balance we have to figure out.

1186 Mr. Lyons. -- the balancing act is being done at the
1187 right level.

1188 Mr. Walden. Yes. We face a lot in the West with public
1189 -- federal public lands. I had a community that was trying
1190 to get three-phase power for the first time in this tiny
1191 little town, and I don't remember now. It took a couple of
1192 years to go through the siting process because they, as I
1193 recall, had to put four power poles on Bureau of Land
1194 Management land. It took a couple of years to go through the
1195 process.

1196 And this is the stuff -- there has got to be a better
1197 way to do this. Now, I want to flag one other issue as we
1198 deal with the communications issues and foreign issues.

1199 In Portland, Oregon, right now, somebody is going around
1200 putting up stickers on lamp posts saying that 5G is a hazard
1201 to your health that look like they are official.

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1202 The New York Times has reported on what Russian
1203 television and propaganda is doing to convince people that
1204 somehow 5G is bad.

1205 And I think -- you can go read the New York Times story.
1206 I mean, it is -- it is there. Meanwhile, in Russia I am told
1207 they are telling everybody that it cures cancer. Here they
1208 are telling us it is going to cause cancer.

1209 We have got to be recognizing on 5G deployment we have
1210 to win this race, and I think this is worthy of us taking a
1211 look at what is going on by some of our adversaries.

1212 I will show you the story. KGWTV did a fact check on
1213 it. It is, like, this is not official stuff. But we are
1214 going to see that around the country.

1215 We have got to win the war on 5G. We need to use our
1216 natural resources, especially natural gas. You look at 16
1217 gigawatts of coal that has come offline because of fuel
1218 switching, principally. But if you can't get the natural gas
1219 where you need it, then you are going to inhibit that growth
1220 and that development.

1221 So there is a lot more that we need to do. Mr. Lyons, I
1222 certainly see a component to what we are trying to do here
1223 and to work with the states, and I appreciate your testimony.

1224 One question maybe for -- is it Mr. Guith? The

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1225 underlying question, kind of what happened to the White House
1226 -- you know, everybody got together and said, we got a \$2
1227 trillion thing -- we all agree.

1228 How do we pay for this? How do we pay for this, \$40
1229 billion? These are authorizations. This isn't, you know --

1230 Mr. Guith. The first principle or pillar within our
1231 infrastructure plan was consistent with what we have been
1232 saying for 20 years, which is raising the user fuel tax --

1233 Mr. Walden. Right.

1234 Mr. Guith. -- because it hasn't been touched since the
1235 '80s and --

1236 Mr. Walden. But you are not going to use that to pay
1237 for these things?

1238 Mr. Guith. Well, we will work with, certainly, Congress
1239 expressing our positions on that. But, ultimately, as Mr.
1240 Donohue stated this morning in the Washington Post, it is
1241 going to take more than even just that to get to \$2 trillion.
1242 I mean, it is going to take private sector investment and the
1243 quickest way to get to that is to make it more transparent
1244 and more predictable as far as how we permit these roads,
1245 bridges, and energy infrastructure.

1246 Mr. Walden. Very good. All right. Thank you.

1247 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your indulgence.

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1248 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Walden.

1249 Next, we move to Ms. DeGette, recognized for five
1250 minutes.

1251 Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

1252 And Mr. Walden, you are exactly right about the 5G
1253 disinformation that is in Denver, and it is everywhere. I
1254 think -- I think, Mr. Chairman, we should have an O&I hearing
1255 on it is my opinion.

1256 But what I want to talk about in my questions is the
1257 environmental applications of this wonderful piece of
1258 legislation because infrastructure is not just limited to
1259 roads and bridges.

1260 It also has a lot of other components, and that is why I
1261 am really happy that there is \$2.7 billion in this bill for
1262 Brownfields redevelopment grants.

1263 I have been involved in this issue back in the mists of
1264 time since I was in the state legislature when I authored the
1265 Colorado version of Brownfields.

1266 It was called the Colorado State Voluntary Cleanup and
1267 Redevelopment Program, and it is still in use to this day and
1268 it has been used to clean up thousands of areas -- old dry
1269 cleaners and gas stations and industrial sites.

1270 And then, of course, in 2002 this committee first

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1271 authorized the federal Brownfields program and in cities like
1272 Denver we can see how important those programs are to
1273 redevelopment in urban areas and these funds will really
1274 allow communities to continue with the success but also to
1275 have economic development.

1276 Mayor, I am wondering if you can comment very briefly on
1277 Brownfields and how the mayors look at this towards an
1278 economic generator.

1279 Mr. Wahler. Thank you, Congresswoman.

1280 It is no secret that the United States Conference of
1281 Mayors have been very supportive of the Brownfields program.
1282 As a matter of fact, one of my colleagues from New Jersey,
1283 Mayor Chris Bollwage of Elizabeth, New Jersey, has testified
1284 on numerous times here in front of this committee and
1285 testified recently last year when the new bill was authorized
1286 and then signed into law.

1287 Listen, Brownfields -- any time you can clean up a
1288 property and put it back to use, whether it is for
1289 residential or commercial use, is a good thing in this
1290 country.

1291 Nobody wants to be living next to Brownfields or
1292 Superfund sites, for lack of a better word, and I think when
1293 towns have a partnership with the federal government, working

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1294 hand in hand to put tax revenues back to good use and to
1295 create economic activity out there, that is a great thing for
1296 both the municipal governments, the country governments, and
1297 even the state governments.

1298 Ms. DeGette. And it is a good economic stimulator. Is
1299 that right?

1300 Mr. Wahler. Absolutely. You know, almost every
1301 community in the United States has a Brownfields site.

1302 Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

1303 Ms. Eckdish, I want -- I also -- the bill also has \$2.5
1304 billion to create grant programs to install solar panels
1305 within low-income and under-served communities.

1306 I am wondering if you can talk to me about how that
1307 impacts jobs in those local communities, both installing and
1308 maintaining.

1309 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. We know that investing in clean
1310 energy is, you know, not only a climate solution but a job
1311 creator. I think what we would hope to see is that these new
1312 programs include strong labor and procurement standards to
1313 make sure that not only are we creating jobs, you know,
1314 installing these solar panels or whether it is other wind,
1315 solar, clean energy opportunities -- that we are not only
1316 creating jobs at the project sites themselves but that we

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1317 are, A, making sure they are good jobs with labor standards
1318 and with procurement standards, that we are also thinking
1319 about the materials that are going into those -- to those
1320 projects.

1321 Ms. DeGette. And that is a continuing source of
1322 employment for our communities. Is that right?

1323 Ms. Eckdish. Yes.

1324 Ms. DeGette. Now, another question I wanted to ask you
1325 about is, you know, the LIFT Act builds on the drinking water
1326 State Revolving Fund by respecting state and local decision
1327 making.

1328 In my community right now we are involved in a very
1329 difficult collaborative process with the state and actually
1330 the EPA because they have found lead in the water in Denver,
1331 including in the pipes that go to my house because the pipes
1332 are so old.

1333 So I am wondering if you can talk about why it is
1334 important to respect the solutions for the cities and states
1335 when you are providing the federal funding.

1336 Ms. Eckdish. Absolutely, and we know these communities
1337 exist across the country and there are millions of Americans
1338 being served by lead service lines or water systems that have
1339 lead components, and it is a tragic situation.

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1340 The State Revolving Funds are very proven effective
1341 programs and we commend the LIFT Act for recognizing that and
1342 this committee had done tremendous work to ensure that those
1343 programs are effective.

1344 And they also include strong labor and procurement
1345 standards that make sure that the investments we are making
1346 in our water systems also create good jobs both in the
1347 construction and the manufacturing of those components.

1348 Ms. DeGette. Thank you. Thank you so much. I yield
1349 back.

1350 The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. DeGette.

1351 Next, we have Mr. Upton for five minutes.

1352 Mr. Upton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would guess -
1353 - I think most of my questions are going to be directed at
1354 Mr. Guith.

1355 I appreciated your comments about PFAS. That is one of
1356 the things this committee and certainly the subcommittee that
1357 Mr. Tonko and Mr. Shimkus lead is focused on that not only in
1358 this Congress but also in the last one.

1359 Michigan, we have been particularly hard hit with this.
1360 Our governor did a really good job of working with every
1361 community in our state to find out what municipal water
1362 systems might be impacted both above 10,000 users as well as

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1363 under 10,000 and, sadly, tragically, I have one in my
1364 district and particularly those with individual wells are
1365 still going to be drinking bottled water for some time to
1366 come.

1367 And we did have some cooperation between the city of
1368 Kalamazoo and Parchment to put together a water system so
1369 that the Parchment system now is with Kalamazoo but they were
1370 just really lucky that it was so close.

1371 But this legislation -- the LIFT legislation -- does
1372 establish a non-regulatory federal grant program to aid PFAS-
1373 affected drinking water utilities and we know it is going to
1374 be more than just one in not only Michigan but around the
1375 country as well.

1376 Do you find that that is a pretty good way to address
1377 the PFAS issues and, again, it does fit in with the jobs and
1378 environment situation but it is a really critical need that
1379 communities are going to need very much like what we saw with
1380 lead in Clinton and other communities as well.

1381 Mr. Guith. Absolutely. We think that because the PFAS
1382 contamination invariably hits all 50 states and territories
1383 probably -- all 435 House districts -- there is a significant
1384 need for remediation in addressing the contamination.

1385 But as I noted in my testimony, the one thing we would

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1386 be concerned with is that it divert funds from existing safe
1387 drinking water funding, and as somebody from Michigan and
1388 having referenced the lead issue, that is something that I
1389 would expect many up there would not want to see happen --

1390 Mr. Upton. Yes, I think we are going to have to expand
1391 the pool of dollars that are available and just like, you
1392 know, lead is bad, PFAS is relatively new contaminant that
1393 many people still don't know about. But it is just as
1394 harmful, as we saw with the lead issue.

1395 You know, as we talk about creating jobs and protecting
1396 the environment, again, one of the issues that this committee
1397 is going to be working on, and thanks to Mr. Rush and Pallone
1398 and, again, bipartisan -- something going back to John
1399 Dingell and certainly Debbie Dingell now -- is pipeline
1400 safety authorization bill which, as you may know, expires in
1401 September of this year.

1402 We have been beginning hearings and to, again, work on a
1403 bipartisan basis. Creates jobs and protects the environment.
1404 We know that that's the safest way to transport oil and gas
1405 through.

1406 There are several congressional mandates that are left
1407 over from the prior reauthorizations. They involve important
1408 rule makings relating to gas and liquid integrity management,

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1409 leak detection, safety valves, mapping of high consequence
1410 areas, other important safety rules.

1411 We are going to be working on increased funding for
1412 infrastructure. So do you think that it is important that we
1413 link some of that funding related to upgraded safety
1414 practices as well?

1415 Mr. Guith. Absolutely. As this country continues to
1416 grow its production of both oil and gas, the pipeline system
1417 is expanding and it is become incredibly more important to
1418 the movement of those fuels and those resources.

1419 And, you know, I think this committee pointed out when
1420 they had -- when you had the PHMSA hearing a few weeks back
1421 that, you know, modernizing PHMSA and getting it more
1422 personnel is incredibly important and it is to keep up with
1423 the pace of a burgeoning U.S. energy sector.

1424 Mr. Upton. And Ms. Eckdish, as part of the BlueGreen
1425 Alliance, I mean, this is -- this is really a job creator. I
1426 mean, we had a pipeline break in my -- actually, it was
1427 outside of my district -- back in 2010. That line -- that
1428 gas line was completely replaced.

1429 Four and a half million dollars a mile is what the cost
1430 to replace it was. They did it with a new standard and, you
1431 know, the one spill, again, was outside of my district but it

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1432 was a billion dollars to clean up.

1433 So a pipeline safety bill is, you know, anywhere we
1434 look, and Mr. Shimkus has been a good leader on this as well,
1435 but more than a million miles of pipelines across the
1436 country, this is something we ought to focus on, knowing that
1437 in fact it is going to be better for the environment.
1438 Wouldn't you agree?

1439 Ms. Eckdish. Absolutely. Pipeline safety is not only a
1440 safety issue. It is a critical safety issue. It is also an
1441 environmental issue when you consider methane emissions from
1442 these pipelines being, you know, an extremely potent driver
1443 of climate change as well as the tremendous job creation
1444 potential that can be achieved by repairing and replacing
1445 some of these pipelines as well as through leak detection and
1446 repair.

1447 Mr. Upton. I know my time has expired but I know other
1448 colleagues will talk about the importance of cybersecurity
1449 related to this, too.

1450 Yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1451 The Chairman. Thank you.

1452 Mr. Doyle recognized for five minutes.

1453 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for
1454 holding this hearing and introducing this important

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1455 legislation which I was proud to co-sponsor, and I want to
1456 thank all the witnesses for being here today also.

1457 My hometown of Pittsburgh, like many cities, has aging
1458 infrastructure that can threaten the health and safety of
1459 residents if it is not properly updated and maintained.

1460 I am glad to see that the LIFT Act includes investments
1461 in drinking water infrastructure as lead and PFAS
1462 contamination remain issues in our region and throughout
1463 Pennsylvania.

1464 Also very happy to see the investments in energy,
1465 health, and communications infrastructure as well. These
1466 investments are critical to the future of our country.

1467 Commissioner Clyburn, Chairman Pallone's LIFT America
1468 Act would invest \$40 billion in deploying broadband
1469 infrastructure to communities across rural America.

1470 Many of the members of this committee represent
1471 communities that lack access to broadband. Why is it
1472 important that Congress invest in the deployment?

1473 What would this bill achieve that private investment and
1474 existing federal programs won't and what do we lose by not
1475 making this investment today and what will those communities
1476 lose?

1477 Ms. Clyburn. Well, I will start with the last first.

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1478 We lose our young people. They won't have the educational
1479 opportunities or access to them needed.

1480 We lose quicker our older and those who are medically
1481 challenged because they might not have a specialist nearby,
1482 but with connectivity they are able to access it.

1483 One of the things that you just put forth in that
1484 question is it is not so much what we will lose. It is what
1485 we can't afford to. I mean, literally, we literally can't
1486 afford because we are paying the price for the lack of
1487 infrastructure.

1488 We are paying a price for the lack of access. We are
1489 paying a high price and communities are not competitive.
1490 People are not getting access to goods and services they need
1491 to thrive. We lose a lot -- we lose a little bit of everyone
1492 in those communities when we don't address this.

1493 Mr. Doyle. So can this deployment happen strictly on
1494 private investment and existing programs or does the federal
1495 government --

1496 Ms. Clyburn. Well, if the last five years is any
1497 indication, and when you don't see appreciably the number of,
1498 you know, 24 million according to the FCC, million people not
1499 -- that has been hovering. That number has been constant for
1500 a long time.

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1501 So the public-private partnership, while it has
1502 incrementally been doing some positive, it is not getting us
1503 to where we need to get in an expedited way. This is a
1504 targeted infusion, a promised infusion in those communities,
1505 with a public-private partnership. It is more of a tortoise
1506 and a hare approach.

1507 Mr. Doyle. Let me ask you also about Chairman Pallone's
1508 LIFT America Act would invest \$12 billion in deploying next-
1509 generation 911 service. It is a critical issue and it is one
1510 that has been championed by my friends, Anna Eshoo and John
1511 Shimkus.

1512 When will NG 911 service be deployed to all Americans if
1513 we don't make this investment now and what are the risks if
1514 we don't delay -- if we delay doing this?

1515 And then also talk a little bit about the benefits of NT
1516 911 service to regular Americans and in particular what are
1517 the advantages to people living in communities that are
1518 subject to extreme storms and weathers like California and
1519 Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico? I mean, right as we speak
1520 today throughout the Midwest states are just being pummelled
1521 with tornadoes four, five, six days in a row. What are the
1522 impacts of not having that service for those people?

1523 Ms. Clyburn. The impact of not moving to the next

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1524 evolutionary phase is lives lost, both from the person who
1525 has the emergency and the critical person who is providing
1526 that -- providing the service.

1527 One of the images that I saw that I think sums it up is
1528 one of the first responders needed a response, and I really
1529 believe if we had a video and robust texting opportunities
1530 they might have been better able to assess that emergency and
1531 really acted on it.

1532 There are too many public safety centers that can't take
1533 texts. You know, you have to call. Now, heaven forbid if I
1534 get held up and can't, you know, talk. I am more at risk.

1535 So not addressing this and staying -- maintaining a 50-
1536 year-old framework, which is what we are doing now and not
1537 moving ahead really does not allow individuals to communicate
1538 in a way. It doesn't allow for interoperability and it
1539 doesn't allow for us to be as safe as we need to be.

1540 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1541 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Doyle.

1542 Mr. Shimkus for five minutes.

1543 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1544 A great hearing, multiple issues. I wish we had more
1545 time but we got, obviously, a big attendance here also. So I
1546 am going to try to go pretty quick.

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1547 I want to really highlight Jerry McNerney for dropping
1548 the Nuclear Waste Policy Waste Amendment of 2019. Blunt
1549 Rochester is a co-sponsor. Doyle is. Flores is. Hundred
1550 billion dollar infrastructure plan over a hundred years paid
1551 for.

1552 Sounds like a pretty good deal, and that is what this
1553 act would do and it would help railroads getting our nuclear
1554 waste, which is all over the country -- 121 locations, 39
1555 states -- to a long-term repository.

1556 So I want to thank him for that and I want to encourage
1557 my colleagues on the committee to look at that bill and ask
1558 us questions, and then consider co-sponsoring it, as the
1559 chairman is at least supportive of having a hearing and
1560 discussing this, and I appreciate that.

1561 But it is \$100 billion over a hundred years paid for
1562 because ratepayers have paid into a fund to enact this. So
1563 it is nothing -- when we ask about where the money is coming
1564 from, the ratepayers in these states have already paid for
1565 this. So I want to make that --

1566 Mr. Guith, do you think there can be a viable long-term
1567 energy and national security policy and this climate debate
1568 without nuclear power?

1569 Mr. Guith. No.

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1570 Mr. Shimkus. And I --

1571 Mr. Guith. There is scientific consensus around that.

1572 Mr. Shimkus. All right. And, you know, nuclear being
1573 carbon-fee emissions, if we want to meet any type of
1574 objectives and keep rates somewhat acceptable, we will have
1575 to have base load major generation. So I appreciate that.

1576 Also, Mr. Tonko and I were able in the last Congress to
1577 reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act through this
1578 committee -- the Brownfields redevelopment, which the mayor
1579 talked about, and I sat through a lot of those hearings with
1580 your colleagues.

1581 I think the only thing that gives me pause on this parts
1582 of legislation is this is authorization. Then the question
1583 is appropriation. And do we run the risk of authorizing --
1584 setting the bar so high that two things.

1585 One is it is unrealistic because there is always going
1586 to be some buy-in and that it causes -- you know, it causes a
1587 more of a pause because we are planning for all these big
1588 things but the money just doesn't show.

1589 And I want to go with Mr. Guith but I do want to ask
1590 also to the mayor also.

1591 Mr. Guith. It's a age-old friction between authorizers
1592 and appropriators, and that's how the system is set up and we

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1593 think it is important to make sure that authorizers take the
1594 time to stipulate what the parameters of the program should
1595 be regularly -- not, you know, every couple of decades but
1596 regularly -- and then take a very active role in the
1597 appropriations process to ensure that it is backed up with
1598 the actual moneys that are needed to fund the programs.

1599 Mr. Shimkus. Mayor?

1600 Mr. Wahler. I think one of the drawbacks of what you
1601 are saying is that, you know, backdooring the ARRA with the
1602 energy efficiency block grant program there was some
1603 criticism of the fact that the program didn't get off the way
1604 it should have been.

1605 But part of the problem was through the Department of
1606 Energy. They set a lot of bureaucratic regulations within
1607 that and then we had to report ARRA standards, too. Towns
1608 and cities and counties across this country are used to the
1609 model of the community development block grant programming.

1610 And I wouldn't necessarily fault the towns and
1611 communities for that. We -- like in my community we already
1612 have an eight-year program. We know what needs to get done.
1613 It is about \$100 million worth of projects. But the problem
1614 is we just don't have all the money.

1615 Mr. Shimkus. Right.

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1616 Mr. Wahler. And we need seed money in a lot of cases.

1617 Mr. Shimkus. Is there not a concern of false

1618 expectations with high numbers and --

1619 Mr. Wahler. No. You know what? You know, we have --

1620 Mr. Shimkus. If you could be quick. I got one more

1621 question I got to get in.

1622 Mr. Wahler. Okay. We have an aging infrastructure out

1623 there. Everybody knows that.

1624 Mr. Shimkus. Right.

1625 Mr. Wahler. At all levels of all multi-facets.

1626 Something needs to be done and --

1627 Mr. Shimkus. Okay. Let me ask about this because this

1628 is tied into the committee of jurisdiction and you have

1629 already talked about the PFAS issue.

1630 So we got PFOA, PFAS -- 600 of these somewhat chemical

1631 chains in our -- you know, in our environment. What if some

1632 of these, Mayor, are safe, because there is different

1633 formulations of this, and if the government says you have to

1634 clean up something that is safe at that investment capital,

1635 would you or could you, or would you --

1636 Mr. Wahler. Well, I just want to let the record reflect

1637 I am not a medical doctor to talk like that.

1638 Mr. Shimkus. Well, yeah. You are talking to us.

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1639 [Laughter.]

1640 Mr. Wahler. But the end game is, is that nobody wants
1641 to see unsafe drinking water. My good friend, Karen Weaver
1642 from Flint, Michigan, I don't -- I would not -- I just
1643 emphasize what the folks in Flint, Michigan, had to go
1644 through and I am sure nobody in this room ever wants to see
1645 that in your community out there.

1646 But we need to work with the health professionals
1647 nationally along with the counties and towns across this
1648 country.

1649 Mr. Shimkus. And my time is way expired but I would
1650 just say we got to make sure we know if it is -- what is safe
1651 and what is not safe and we got to be careful about saying
1652 ban everything because some of that stuff may be safe and
1653 high cost.

1654 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You let me go way over my time
1655 and I appreciate it.

1656 The Chairman. Okay.

1657 Next I will recognize Ms. Matsui for five minutes.

1658 Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
1659 welcome to the panel. Thank you for being here today.

1660 I was pleased to see that the LIFT America Act
1661 reauthorized the popular Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, or

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1662 as we call it, DERA program.

1663 As you may know, earlier this spring in introduced
1664 legislation to reauthorize DERA and led the effort to secure
1665 robust funding in fiscal year 2020 appropriations.

1666 Diesel engines still pose a unique problem because of
1667 the long lifespan of the equipment, with some engines
1668 operating for up to 20 or 30 years.

1669 Because of this, the transition to newer cleaner engines
1670 has been slow and as a result diesel fuel consumption still
1671 accounts for a large percentage of our transportation sector
1672 carbon dioxide emissions -- 24 percent in 2017 alone,
1673 according to the Energy Information Administration.

1674 Ms. Eckdish, can you quickly discuss how the nature of
1675 diesel engines poses a unique challenge to our local
1676 communities?

1677 Ms. Eckdish. Thank you for the question.

1678 That specific issue is a little bit outside of my area
1679 of expertise. But I would say to the -- to your broader
1680 point about the need to address diesel and other emissions
1681 from the transportation sector we have a long way to go and
1682 what LIFT America Act is -- has done so far in terms of both
1683 the diesel emission reduction program as well as building out
1684 EV infrastructure is a step in the right direction and we

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1685 want to make sure that those -- the emissions go down and
1686 that we are creating good jobs while we do that.

1687 Ms. Matsui. Okay. Thank you.

1688 And I think it is important, as you mentioned, that this
1689 bill is prioritizing electric vehicle, or EV, infrastructure,
1690 you know, because transportation emissions, as we said, are
1691 now the largest single source of emissions in this country.

1692 While we thought we might get a handle on this under the
1693 Obama administration's rules on fuel economy and greenhouse
1694 gas emission standards, the Trump administration decided to
1695 roll back these standards and bring our country backwards
1696 when it comes to cleaning up our transportation sector.

1697 This is, obviously, a critical part of our larger vision
1698 to combat climate change and create healthier safer
1699 communities for our constituents.

1700 While I have introduced legislation that will safeguard
1701 these standards, it is also important to provide robust
1702 investments for EV infrastructure and the purchase of EVs.

1703 Mayor Wahler or Ms. Eckdish, can either of you discuss
1704 what some of the largest barriers to widespread of EVs is
1705 today and how this bill might alleviate some of these
1706 obstacles?

1707 Mr. Mayor?

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1708 Mr. Wahler. I think, Congresswoman, the question is a
1709 lot of towns and cities have really stepped up to the plate
1710 because there is -- for lack of a better word, there hasn't
1711 been so much of a partnership at the federal level or, in
1712 some cases, at the state level.

1713 So most of the initiatives that you see positively
1714 across this country has been happening at the state and local
1715 level, to a certain extent. Like in my community we
1716 recognize that with charging stations that we have to start
1717 somewhere.

1718 So we changed our zoning laws. Any new large
1719 development or commercial developments have to supply
1720 charging station areas as well at government facilities that
1721 we've been doing because, basically, 80 percent of the
1722 roadways in this country are municipal or county.

1723 So if you are going to ever have a network system of --
1724 to reduce carbon emissions, we need to start at the local
1725 level.

1726 Ms. Matsui. Right. And I -- and I really believe -- I
1727 think what you are saying, too, is having a federal activity
1728 in this realm would be great.

1729 I mean, in California we are doing it. In fact, our
1730 utilities are helping with the EV charging stations

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1731 themselves, which actually activates the incentive to buy EV
1732 automobiles --

1733 Mr. Wahler. That is an exception, Congresswoman.

1734 Ms. Matsui. I know.

1735 Mr. Wahler. Your state is an exception.

1736 Ms. Matsui. But if we get it at the national level I
1737 think that would be very helpful also.

1738 I want to ask a question about the remote areas fund. I
1739 am switching here but this is everything here.

1740 In 2011, the FCC acknowledged that the highest cost
1741 hardest-to-reach places around the country should be targeted
1742 through a remote area fund, as we call it -- RAF.

1743 In 2017, the Commission reaffirmed that it aims to move
1744 forward with the RAF no later than a year after the Connect
1745 America Fund reverse auction.

1746 Many RAF-eligible communities still do not have access
1747 to a safe and reliable broadband option. If structured
1748 properly, the RAF would reach the communities in rural
1749 America where it is truly no business case to serve.

1750 Now, Commissioner Clyburn, mindful of the larger
1751 proposed reforms to the Universal Service Fund, do you have
1752 any idea what steps the FCC could take to ensure the RAF is a
1753 success? We have got 25 seconds here.

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1754 Ms. Clyburn. Oh. One of the things that I think it
1755 could do is get the maps right so we can have an accurate
1756 feel for what is needed. Another is ensure that it is
1757 technology neutral so we can extract the best ideas for our
1758 buck, and leveraging what I know you will do today through
1759 this act it definitely will help move things along.

1760 Ms. Matsui. Okay. Fine. Thank you, and I yield back.

1761 The Chairman. Thank you.

1762 Dr. Burgess recognized for five minutes.

1763 Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1764 Mr. Auerbach, I want to thank you for mentioning the
1765 Pandemic All-Hazard Preparedness Act reauthorization. It
1766 was, indeed, a very high priority of this committee and the
1767 Health Subcommittee last Congress and due to the -- an even
1768 temperament over in the other body, and I am being careful
1769 with my language.

1770 It did finally pass on unanimous consent earlier this
1771 week. As we are just a little bit past the 100-year
1772 anniversary of the Spanish flu it is important to get this
1773 done, and you are correct to mention some of the
1774 infrastructure needs because that is so critical.

1775 For the first time we will authorize the system
1776 Biowatch. We had Mission Zero, which was to -- it was a

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1777 force multiplier for our trauma surgeons and military-trained
1778 physicians. So there is a lot of good stuff in that bill and
1779 I am glad the Senate finally passed it.

1780 Professor Lyons, you brought up the concept of
1781 allocation proportion, which I think is reasonable in a state
1782 like Texas where we have, what, 85 percent of the state lives
1783 within 50 miles of Interstate 35 going north to south, from
1784 the north Texas area down to Laredo, and then you got the
1785 rest of Texas.

1786 So then allocation proportion becomes very important.
1787 In fact, I was reading some stuff in the local press and the
1788 Houston Press this morning about how concerned they are about
1789 the formulas that are being used to allocate these dollars.

1790 And I don't know if you have any thoughts on that but we
1791 are going to have to make sure that we keep up with the fact
1792 that it may not be as straightforward as the FCC has
1793 demonstrated in their formulas.

1794 Mr. Lyons. I think that is -- I think that is right. I
1795 think the goal in allocating the dollars should be to keep an
1796 eye on what the overall purpose of the subsidy is, which
1797 first and foremost is to make sure that you are reaching un-
1798 served areas.

1799 And so when figuring out how to allocate the dollars

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1800 that are being distributed to the states, the important thing
1801 I think is to figure out what is the population of the un-
1802 served area in each state and allocate the money that way.

1803 That way you make sure that you are not -- you don't
1804 have the unintended consequence of sending too much money to
1805 one state or another because of the fact that city might have
1806 a larger urban area.

1807 Mr. Burgess. So you have got a lot of geography in some
1808 areas without a lot of population, and it just makes it
1809 technically more difficult. But it doesn't mean that it
1810 shouldn't be done.

1811 Mr. Lyons. That is right, and I think that is why the
1812 technology-neutral point is really important too because
1813 wireless solutions may be great in Kansas. It's not going to
1814 be so great in mountainous West Virginia, right.

1815 So giving more flexibility to bidders to figure out how
1816 best to serve individual areas makes a lot of sense to me.

1817 Mr. Burgess. Very good. Thank you.

1818 Mr. Guith, you struck on something that has really
1819 concerned me since I first got here in 2003 and that is the
1820 streamlining of permitting.

1821 At that time I was thinking more in the terms of road
1822 construction, and we had the 50-year anniversary of the

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1823 interstate highway system and I think 80 percent of it was
1824 built in the first 25 years of the -- the last connectivity
1825 was built in the next 25 years because the permitting process
1826 had become so difficult.

1827 The president has said this -- it can't take longer to
1828 permit a project than it does to build a project, and I trust
1829 that your group is working on that, working with the White
1830 House, working with the Congress to make sure that we keep
1831 that top of mind.

1832 Mr. Guith. Very much so, and it is, like I said, a
1833 bipartisan effort. FAST-41 was the last time we touched upon
1834 this issue. It took many years but it was -- it was painful
1835 but it was rewarding because both sides holding hands and we
1836 saw the first meaningful changes, maybe not substantive but
1837 more transparency as far as how the federal permitting system
1838 works so that people from the outside -- the project sponsors
1839 could figure out where their project is and who is reviewing
1840 it and, oh by the way, you know, this agency doesn't talk to
1841 this agency and maybe they should.

1842 So now there is a interlocutor who can do that. So it
1843 is a huge step forward and we are looking for a few more of
1844 those huge step forwards in this process.

1845 Mr. Burgess. Well, thank you and thank you for that.

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1846 It is critical that we keep that in mind.

1847 Ms. Eckdish, let me just ask you a question. I was at
1848 the White House last week and the president, as you may have
1849 heard, had an event regarding immigration and visas.

1850 I think you correctly talk about American-made products
1851 being the ones that we want to use on these projects. You
1852 talked about a fair wage for employees.

1853 Would you be willing to accept -- if this legislation
1854 were to come through the Rules Committee where I also sit,
1855 would you be willing to accept an amendment to require
1856 mandatory E-verify so we can be certain we are giving
1857 American jobs for American workers at American wages?

1858 Ms. Eckdish. I am not sure that we have a position on
1859 that as a coalition. But I would be happy to review and get
1860 back to you.

1861 Mr. Burgess. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
1862 will yield back.

1863 The Chairman. Thank you.

1864 So next is the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Sarbanes,
1865 recognized for five minutes.

1866 Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank
1867 our panel. And I want to salute you, Mr. Chairman, for
1868 assembling this very important package of infrastructure

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1869 investments. It is about time and our committee, I think, is
1870 very well positioned to contribute to the broad discussion we
1871 are having across the Congress about making this a priority.

1872 Last Congress, I was very proud to be a co-sponsor of
1873 the LIFT America Act and I am certainly pleased again to do
1874 it in this Congress.

1875 It provides, as we know from this discussion and
1876 certainly from pulling the bill together -- its many
1877 components -- much-needed resources for our nation's critical
1878 infrastructure.

1879 I know that typically when we hear infrastructure the
1880 first thing that comes to mind for many people is roads and
1881 bridges and, obviously, those are important pieces of our
1882 physical infrastructure and are in dire need of important
1883 resources.

1884 But we can't forget about other infrastructure that is
1885 vital to the health and well-being of Americans' drinking
1886 water, infrastructure, the electric grid, and infrastructure
1887 for community health centers being among them.

1888 I wanted to focus my attention on the electric grid,
1889 which is facing many challenges, as we know. There is
1890 growing demand. There is need for reliability, integration
1891 of new technologies, need for resiliency against climate

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1892 change and extreme weather events.

1893 These are all challenges that require that our electric
1894 grid adapt to 21st century requirements.

1895 Ms. Eckdish, can you just talk for a moment about how
1896 modernizing our grid -- our electric grid -- is a smart
1897 investment from helping, obviously, to address carbon
1898 emissions to promoting reliability and affordability and any
1899 other benefits that you would like to observe?

1900 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you for the question.

1901 And as you rightly pointed out, there is a lot of work
1902 to do. Most of the -- many of the components of our electric
1903 grid are from a hundred years ago.

1904 Our grid was built for an energy system of the past and
1905 not what we have today or what we are going to have in the
1906 future. So there is tremendous need for both grid
1907 modernization, smart grid updates, as well as investing in
1908 grid resiliency, all of which the LIFT America Act does.

1909 There is also significant need to build out our
1910 transmission lines to both increase efficiency and
1911 reliability as well as facilitate the incorporation of more
1912 renewables onto our grid.

1913 All of those will have significant impacts, benefits
1914 from addressing climate change to making our communities more

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1915 resilient. There are also very significant infrastructure
1916 projects that, again, if we include strong labor standards
1917 and procurement standards can create good-quality jobs.

1918 Mr. Sarbanes. Thanks very much.

1919 Mr. Wahler, you certainly know first hand about the
1920 importance of a resilient and reliable grid, as your
1921 community was devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

1922 Can you talk about how these extreme weather events like
1923 what you experienced and, obviously, what we are seeing more
1924 and more of across the country and as it relates to being
1925 handled or is being felt, I guess, most impactfully by people
1926 who are trying to lead at the local level what the effect of
1927 those on our grid infrastructure is and how investments in
1928 the grid resiliency that we are talking about here are
1929 important for local communities?

1930 Mr. Wahler. If I may, Congressman, as well, most towns
1931 and cities are waiting for state regulators at the state
1932 level to have the transmission carriers upgrade their lines.

1933 Towns and cities at this point are looking at the backup
1934 resources there. Like, for instance, our community we have a
1935 lot of solar panels in our facility.

1936 We also have backup generators on all of our pumping
1937 stations now, or the sewers. We actually have backup

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1938 batteries for all 30 signalized intersections because when
1939 the power grid goes down people still travel around the road
1940 you have to have some safety measures.

1941 So that has been a challenging part for a lot of
1942 communities. They don't necessarily have the money to have
1943 the resiliency done and that is why I think we really need a
1944 partnership at the federal level to help -- have a helping
1945 hand out there because in times of a crisis like during
1946 Hurricane Sandy where you had no power in our community for
1947 almost nine days straight when the weather was getting very
1948 cold out there and you had people calling the mayor's office,
1949 "How am I going to get heat?"

1950 And it is a very poignant -- as Chairman Pallone knows,
1951 it is a very frightening situation for most of the general
1952 public. So this is something to be taken very seriously.
1953 Mayors and county officials across the country take this very
1954 seriously, Congressman.

1955 Mr. Sarbanes. I appreciate your comments, and you
1956 talked about the importance of partnering from a resource
1957 standpoint, and I am very pleased that the bill I was able to
1958 work on and introduce, the 21st Century Power Grid Act, is
1959 included in this package because it would empower the
1960 Department of Energy to support projects that improve grid

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1961 performance, security, resiliency, and it would do that
1962 through grant making and cooperative agreements, and those
1963 kinds of federal investments in our grid infrastructure are
1964 essential if we are going to overcome the challenges that we
1965 are talking about here today.

1966 So thank you very much for your testimony, and I yield
1967 back the balance of my time.

1968 The Chairman. Thank you.

1969 Mr. Latta recognized for five minutes.

1970 Mr. Latta. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks
1971 very much for having today's hearing and thanks to our
1972 witnesses for being here today.

1973 Commissioner Clyburn, if I could start my questions with
1974 you. First of all, welcome back in your new capacity.

1975 Ms. Clyburn. Thank you.

1976 Mr. Latta. I appreciate your comments on how you noted
1977 Commissioner O'Rielly's work on the importance of
1978 coordination. It is something we have been focused on here
1979 in committee. The ACCESS BROADBAND recently passed the House
1980 and I am looking forward at further steps we can take to get
1981 the different existing programs working together.

1982 Would you speak to some of the effects you have seen
1983 when coordination is lacking?

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1984 Ms. Clyburn. One of the things that we see, and it
1985 might be a benefit to some people, but you see subsidizing of
1986 unsubsidized carriers getting money to serve the same area.

1987 Now, while that may fuel competition, we also see
1988 broadband providers not being in certain areas because of
1989 that. You know, lack of coordination and that is -- you
1990 know, that disconnect and that, again fuels all the
1991 opportunities.

1992 So the biggest thing is duplications -- duplications,
1993 the inefficiency and, again, investments not going to areas.
1994 That is the saddest part of it -- investment not going to
1995 areas where it is needed.

1996 Mr. Latta. Okay. Thank you.

1997 Professor Lyons, should we try to address coordination
1998 in a more substantial way as we consider further spending on
1999 broadband deployment?

2000 Mr. Lyons. I think we have got several different
2001 programs that are sort of aiming at the same thing. But if
2002 they are not talking one another you get a ton of overlap and
2003 inefficiency.

2004 One difficulty with creating these types of initiatives
2005 on a one-off basis is once it is created it tends to stick
2006 around. So I don't know if this is beyond the scope of what

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2007 this committee is considering right now but one solution
2008 might be to think about consolidating all of these into one
2009 program that would look more comprehensively at the question
2010 of serving un-served areas with one decision maker who is
2011 allocating one pot of money rather than dividing among
2012 several different groups.

2013 What I am thinking of is the Connect America Fund, which
2014 has done great work, but it is hobbled by the fact that it is
2015 laboring under restrictions of the Universal Service Fund
2016 that were created for a very different era.

2017 It is a program that is doing the best with what it can.
2018 But closing that down and shifting the money to something
2019 like this that is focused primarily on building broadband
2020 infrastructure out I think would be an improvement.

2021 Mr. Latta. Okay. Let me ask another question to you.
2022 I agree with your comments that funding should be distributed
2023 on a technology-neutral basis.

2024 However, as you noted, the 100 megabit per second
2025 minimum service standard risks overinvesting in fewer
2026 projects. Does this service standard also threaten the
2027 principle of tech neutrality?

2028 Mr. Lyons. It does in the sense -- if you -- which is
2029 probably true right now, that 100 megabits per second minimum

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2030 is one that some technologies can hit and others cannot.

2031 We have to think about ways to deploy good enough
2032 broadband or broadband that is going to connect people who
2033 are currently unconnected and setting too high of a threshold
2034 may prevent the number of players who can come in and bid.

2035 I often tell my students that the satellite guys are
2036 perpetually creating a state-of-the-art network for, like,
2037 seven years ago. And I think that is a bit of an
2038 overstatement but the idea is that technology is great but it
2039 is not -- but it is advancing at the same rate that fiber is
2040 advancing and wireless is advancing. So they are perpetually
2041 just a little bit behind.

2042 But if they are meeting the mark that they can provide
2043 basic connectivity, they ought to be in the mix of the
2044 conversation and not be hobbled in their ability to bid in
2045 the reverse auction by the fact that they can't hit 100
2046 megabit target if a 100 megabit target hasn't been justified.

2047 Mr. Latta. Thank you.

2048 Mr. Guith, while much of our nation's infrastructure
2049 depends on federal investments, the private sector needs to
2050 step up to make needed investments in our electric grid.

2051 In your view, what is the greatest impediment to
2052 unleashing more private sector investments?

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2053 Mr. Guith. Within the electric grid it is relatively
2054 simple. It is the inability to site intrastate transmission
2055 lines. Unlike with natural gas pipelines where Congress
2056 bestowed a federal preemption to FERC, licensing and
2057 permitting of transmission lines is a state by state
2058 Balkanized process and it frequently takes north of a decade
2059 to try and get through that process, and usually it turns out
2060 negatively.

2061 We have seen both DC and AC lines stopped by a single
2062 state, even though it may benefit, you know, 14 states.

2063 So it would be very useful to have that federal
2064 preemption for transmission the same way we do with natural
2065 gas, although you probably have 50 governors who might take
2066 issue with that.

2067 Mr. Latta. And just in my last 10 seconds, you might
2068 answer a little bit of this. But what should Congress do to
2069 encourage more public-private partnerships? I know you just
2070 mentioned preemption.

2071 Mr. Guith. I am sorry. Can you repeat the last part of
2072 the question?

2073 Mr. Latta. Yes. What should Congress do to encourage
2074 more of the public-private partnerships?

2075 Mr. Guith. Fundamentally, just more transparency, more

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2076 predictability. There is trillions of dollars out there both
2077 in corporations, financial service funds as well as foreign
2078 sovereign funds, who are willing to invest in all forms of
2079 infrastructure within the United States.

2080 But it is not predictable enough right now and providing
2081 that predictability will open the floodgates to that
2082 additional money that is not coming from the U.S. taxpayer.

2083 Mr. Latta. Thank you.

2084 Mr. Chairman, my time has expired and I appreciate the
2085 indulgence. I yield back.

2086 The Chairman. Thank you.

2087 Mr. McNerney recognized for five minutes.

2088 Mr. McNerney. Thank you. I thank the chairman. I
2089 thank the witnesses for coming in this morning and talking
2090 and preparing. It is a big effort.

2091 My constituents and Americans across the country need
2092 broadband access to fully participate in our society. The
2093 LIFT Act will result in smart federal investments and
2094 broadband deployment to achieve this goal.

2095 But I am concerned that many Americans still are unable
2096 to get online because they face adoption hurdles such as not
2097 being able to afford broadband service and the necessary
2098 devices or do not have digital literary skills.

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2099 Commissioner Clyburn, based on your experience at the
2100 Commission, what are some of the ways that the lack of
2101 adoption impacts low-income individuals in their communities?

2102 Ms. Clyburn. Well, one thing that I am happy about,
2103 today I consider it a very significant \$40 billion down
2104 payment. This is but a first step, however.

2105 You rightly mentioned that in order for a person to be
2106 truly connected it has to be affordable, it has to be
2107 available, and they have to know or be comfortable in using
2108 it because if they are not comfortable accessing online, if
2109 they cannot download an app, and if you don't have those
2110 skills needed, you won't have workforce development training.

2111 You will not be able to be retooled for the 21st
2112 century. So all of these things are necessary. It is a
2113 multi-prong, definitely a stool effect that is needed -- a
2114 number of legs on the stool. This is one. Digital literacy
2115 and other opportunities are others.

2116 Mr. McNerney. So you already sort of answered my second
2117 question. Would you agree that there is additional federal
2118 investments needed for broadband skills and digital literary
2119 training?

2120 Ms. Clyburn. Absolutely. A very wonderful complement
2121 is a proposed digital equity act. You know, that, again, has

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2122 to be a complement to this. Otherwise, America will not be
2123 truly connected.

2124 Mr. McNerney. Very good. Well, I have been working
2125 with Chairman Pallone on that and plan to introduce that soon
2126 so we get to some of these issues so the disadvantaged and
2127 under-served communities aren't left out.

2128 Moving on to water infrastructure, the Smart Energy and
2129 Water Efficiency Act proposed by Mr. Kinzinger and myself is
2130 included in this LIFT Act and this creates a pilot project
2131 for innovative technologies to improve energy efficiency of
2132 water, waste water, and water reuse systems.

2133 My district is at the heart of the California delta and
2134 I have a responsibility to be a good steward of that
2135 incredible resource.

2136 Mr. Wahler, can you address the need for grants to
2137 improve water and wastewater infrastructure in communities
2138 like yours?

2139 Mr. Wahler. Well, we -- right now, cities and towns
2140 across this country and particularly mine, we float a lot of
2141 money through it -- the federal and state -- and there is a
2142 very small portion of the down payment money.

2143 Like I said before, we spend an average of \$10 million a
2144 year on infrastructure even though our water has been in

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2145 private hands for a number of years. I do know that the
2146 water purveyor has been making substantial public
2147 improvements out there on the roadways to make sure that the
2148 clean standards are being followed and that we don't have any
2149 areas where we have to shut down schools because of non-safe
2150 water.

2151 However, what I would like to say is that we need to
2152 have towns and counties that don't necessarily have the
2153 expertise out there.

2154 Grants such as what you were mentioning would help them
2155 get that expertise and do proper long-term planning out there
2156 so when they go to do a large capital investment of the local
2157 public dollars they will be able to do it correctly.

2158 Mr. McNerney. Thank you.

2159 Mr. Auerbach, you testified that Americans' life
2160 expectancy has dropped for the last three years in a row. Is
2161 that in line with other developed countries?

2162 Mr. Auerbach. It isn't. We are seeing more of a gap
2163 that is growing between the United States and other developed
2164 countries. We have looked at the reasons for that. Some of
2165 the causes of increased deaths in the United States relate to
2166 opiate epidemics, suicides, et cetera. So paying attention
2167 to those differences I think is part of what we need to do to

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2168 understand how to close that gap.

2169 Mr. McNerney. Do you think the LIFT Act will help
2170 remedy this?

2171 Mr. Auerbach. It will. Our ability to respond
2172 efficiently to the challenges that we are facing now will
2173 benefit the American people in terms of better surveillance,
2174 better understanding of where there are concentrations of
2175 particular problems that may be related to the opioid
2176 epidemic.

2177 If we have got the kind of data systems that allow us to
2178 have interoperable communication we can target those
2179 particular areas with interventions that we know work in
2180 terms of prevention and response.

2181 Mr. McNerney. Thank you. I was going to talk about
2182 infrastructure on transmission. Just yesterday, a colleague,
2183 Bob Latta, and I held a -- hosted a grid innovation expo to
2184 highlight some of the technologies out there and I hope that
2185 members and staff take advantage of that information as we
2186 move forward.

2187 Thank you. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2188 The Chairman. Thank you.

2189 Mrs. Rodgers?

2190 Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate

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2191 all the witnesses being here today. I wanted to highlight
2192 the broadband in rural areas issue, which is especially
2193 important. I think it is fundamental to our economic success
2194 and our future. It is certainly part of the infrastructure
2195 of the 21st century.

2196 Unfortunately, too many rural areas are being left
2197 behind including some in eastern Washington that I represent.
2198 And to make matters worse, an issue that has been highlighted
2199 this Congress is the inaccurate broadband mapping and the
2200 data that is greatly overstated -- the coverage in the rural
2201 areas.

2202 I am pleased that broadband is part of the discussion
2203 today and as we think about an infrastructure package that
2204 this is going to be a priority.

2205 However, with the economic survival of our rural
2206 communities at stake, we often avoid the mistakes of the past
2207 -- we must avoid the mistakes of the past and ensure that the
2208 limited resources we are able to provide make it the areas
2209 that need it the most.

2210 Forty billion dollars is a considerable amount of
2211 funding. But its ability to make a dent in the digital
2212 divide is going to be reliant on accurate data.

2213 And that is why in the coming weeks I am planning on

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2214 introducing the House version of the Broadband Data
2215 Improvement Act. This bill will ensure that the FCC is
2216 compiling the most complete and granular data on broadband
2217 access.

2218 Mr. Lyons, how important is it for the current mapping
2219 process to be improved and made more accurate and granular
2220 before distributing new funds to deploy broadband in the
2221 rural areas?

2222 Mr. Lyons. I think it is absolutely vital. I think
2223 that analysis is only as good as the data that is fuelling
2224 the analysis, right.

2225 You can have complex statistical models to figure out
2226 how something is going to work but if it is bad data being
2227 fed into it then you are going to get bad results out.

2228 I think everybody acknowledges that the FCC's existing
2229 mapping protocols don't really work. They are based on Form
2230 477, which was developed back in the dial-up era, right --
2231 back when most of us didn't have internet and those that did
2232 were dealing with that junky static noise, right.

2233 The FCC is updating that and I think it is long overdue
2234 and it is going to be valuable. I think there's also a lot
2235 of public-private partnerships that could be valuable in this
2236 space. Things like U.S. Telecom and WISPA are currently

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2237 engaged in a pilot project to see -- to map within some of
2238 their jurisdictions.

2239 Somebody mentioned crowd sourcing, which I think is also
2240 really valuable -- just getting information that is disbursed
2241 in the populace up to the FCC or some other entity that can
2242 coordinate all these separate data points into more accurate
2243 mapping is also going to be valuable.

2244 Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you. Appreciate that.

2245 For Mr. Guith, you may be aware that I am a strong
2246 proponent of hydropower. I come from Washington State. We
2247 are more than 70 percent dependent upon hydropower. It is
2248 clean. It is carbon free.

2249 We also enjoy some of the lowest electricity rates in
2250 the country. Hydropower is the largest renewable in America
2251 and its role, as we move forward, is going to be really
2252 important.

2253 I have been working to increase the use of this
2254 important energy both nationally and internationally. Last
2255 year, we worked on legislation -- bipartisan legislation --
2256 that passed the House to modernize the hydropower licensing
2257 process.

2258 The current regulations take on average 10 years to
2259 relicense a hydropower project in America, and you compare

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2260 this to a natural gas facility that is, like, 18 months.

2261 I wanted to ask you how do you believe hydropower fits
2262 into the bigger picture of energy infrastructure.

2263 Mr. Guith. I think it is a great example of the United
2264 States being so rich in energy resources that it behooves us
2265 to use the resources that we have geographically.

2266 And growing up in northern California we also rely on
2267 hydro significantly, and we run into issues all the time
2268 trying to site incremental increases in hydro and, frankly,
2269 have to fight to keep the existing generation we have. And
2270 not just from the generation standpoint but increasingly from
2271 the pump storage standpoint.

2272 So I think hydro is and will remain an incredibly
2273 important part of our portfolio. But there can be more.
2274 There is certainly more capacity available in the United
2275 States and it is not just in the Pacific Northwest, which is
2276 so blessed with hydro to begin with.

2277 Mrs. Rodgers. Well, and because of research, because of
2278 investment in new technologies -- we have fish ladders, we
2279 have turbines that are -- have larger outputs and we are
2280 getting to a place where dams are transparent to the fish --
2281 3 percent of the dams in America actually produce hydropower.

2282 So there is existing infrastructure that is currently

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2283 there that with investment we could be producing clean
2284 renewable electricity.

2285 So I wanted just to follow up. How do you believe that
2286 we reduce some of the burdensome regulations that are
2287 impacting our ability to really take advantage of this?

2288 Mr. Guith. Well, I think the work that Congress did
2289 with your leadership last year was a great first step. First
2290 and foremost, it is trying to identify what the issues are
2291 and then addressing them.

2292 In this case, like I said, there's a lot -- I mean, you
2293 are talking about multiple agencies that you have to go
2294 through here and sometimes they don't even know each other,
2295 let alone have communication lines to talk to each other.

2296 And so first, it is highlighting that, and we have seen
2297 the ability of the FIPC (phonetic) to address some of these
2298 issues and it certainly applies to hydro as well.

2299 It is not the end-all be-all, but it is what is
2300 available right now. And there are certainly some additional
2301 bipartisan reforms, whether it is one federal decision, some
2302 reasonable NEPA reforms that I think over time people will
2303 embrace that will help spur these things, including hydro.

2304 Mrs. Rodgers. I appreciate that, and it is -- it
2305 dominates in the Pacific Northwest, it is true. But I have

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2306 always been amazed at the projects that are all over the
2307 country as well as all over the world.

2308 So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will yield
2309 back.

2310 The Chairman. Thank you.

2311 Ms. Castor is next, recognized for five minutes.

2312 Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Chairman Pallone, for
2313 holding this very important hearing on how we modernize
2314 infrastructure across America.

2315 I agree with what I have heard from my colleagues and
2316 our terrific witnesses here today. We can boost higher-
2317 paying jobs across this country by expanding broadband,
2318 doubling down on the clean energy economy, doing some more on
2319 public health infrastructure and I am hearing great support
2320 from folks I represent back home in the state of Florida.

2321 They understand what the Recovery Act meant to our
2322 communities and they would like a more robust partnership.
2323 Really, the federal government has got to be a meaningful
2324 partner. It can't be just all talk no action.

2325 I am particularly interested in how we build a 100
2326 percent clean energy economy, going forward, and Ms. Eckdish,
2327 thank you so much for your leadership and that of the
2328 BlueGreen Alliance.

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2329 You are already building partnerships across the country
2330 to build that clean energy economy. Would you go into
2331 greater detail on a few things -- smart grid investments, how
2332 -- why do you think that those smart grid investments could
2333 be a key to building the clean energy economy, and then talk
2334 about what it means for jobs when we are talking about smart
2335 grids and a modern electric grid.

2336 And then I would also like you to focus on energy
2337 efficiency in green buildings. I have seen what the private
2338 sector is doing. Now, the public sector wants to do more but
2339 they -- it seems like they need some resources from the feds
2340 to help give them a push.

2341 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you for the question and
2342 thank you for your leadership with the Select Committee.

2343 In terms of your first question, I think grid
2344 modernization is key both from a climate resilience
2345 perspective as well as a greenhouse gas emission reduction
2346 perspective.

2347 As I mentioned, grid modernization, grid resiliency, as
2348 well as transmission expansion can be key to facilitating
2349 electric vehicles as well as further deployment of clean
2350 energy onto our grid.

2351 It can also make sure -- help ensure that our

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2352 communities are more resilient to the impacts of climate
2353 change, as you know well in your state from power outages to
2354 flooding and storm surges.

2355 To your second question, building efficiency is key and
2356 a huge opportunity. There are already 2 million workers
2357 employed in the energy efficiency sector today.

2358 So with further investments, we know we can dramatically
2359 expand those jobs. And many of those today are already good
2360 jobs in the building and construction trades. With domestic
2361 content requirements we can also expand the manufacturing of
2362 energy-efficient products and materials.

2363 There are already tremendous jobs today in the
2364 manufacturing of energy-efficient component parts. So with
2365 further federal investment coupled with labor standards and
2366 procurement standards, there is significant opportunity to
2367 expand that.

2368 Ms. Castor. So I had to step out of the hearing for a
2369 little while to sit down with one of America's mayors of a
2370 very large metropolitan area and he explained to me how they
2371 are -- they run a municipal utility and they decided to go
2372 100 percent clean energy over the next couple of decades.

2373 And one of the things they set out to do, they took
2374 their coal plants offline. But he said they had to give

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2375 special attention to a lot of the folks who were employed
2376 there and it -- yes, it means community college training
2377 initiatives but it can't just be a short-term focus.

2378 This has got to be something that we focus on to ensure
2379 as we transition from the old dirty fossil fuel energy
2380 sources to clean energy sources that we just -- it can't be
2381 simply a training program, temporary for a few months or a
2382 year.

2383 Talk to me about what the model should be going forward
2384 for a just transition.

2385 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you.

2386 I think your point is well taken. These facilities are
2387 not only -- you can't only think about the workers at the
2388 facilities. You need to think about those workers as well as
2389 the broader impact on the communities themselves.

2390 In many cases, these plants are huge tax base resources
2391 for the communities in which they're located. So that means
2392 resources for infrastructure, schools, first responders.

2393 So we need to make sure, as we are thinking about
2394 addressing climate change and the clean economy of the
2395 future, that no community or worker is left behind and they
2396 shouldn't be paying the price.

2397 We need to make sure not only that workers directly

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2398 impacted are kept whole but also that we are focussing on
2399 reinvestment in these communities that are seeing these
2400 losses.

2401 Ms. Castor. And what this mayor said was as they
2402 created jobs in the green economy, whether they are solar
2403 installers or working in energy efficiency, they became the
2404 higher paying, more family-sustaining jobs than some of the
2405 older fossil fuel type jobs. Are you seeing that as well?

2406 Ms. Eckdish. I think a lot of the jobs that we see
2407 today in the fossil fuel economy are good jobs and are --
2408 there is some significant union density.

2409 I think what we need to make sure is that the jobs that
2410 we are creating in the clean economy are as good if not
2411 better, and making sure we have strong labor standards and
2412 procurement standards. Our investing in retraining is a key
2413 part of ensuring that.

2414 Ms. Castor. Thank you very much.

2415 The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Castor.

2416 Next is Mr. Guthrie, recognized for five minutes.

2417 Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate
2418 everybody for being here today.

2419 And my first question is for Ms. Eckdish and Mr. Lyons
2420 to comment on this -- Professor Lyons to comment on this as

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2421 you move -- as we go.

2422 So, Ms. Eckdish, in your testimony you agreed with our
2423 efforts to win the 5G and the \$40 billion for expedited
2424 deployment of broadband, and I appreciate your commitment to
2425 that.

2426 But attached into your testimony with advocacy for the
2427 overturning of FCC's small cell order, and so my question is
2428 wouldn't the overturning of the small cell order be a setback
2429 for expedited deployment of 5G?

2430 Ms. Eckdish. We do support restoring the ability of
2431 local governments to regulate deployment of small cells and
2432 we see that as key for these communities meeting the needs of
2433 their --

2434 Mr. Guthrie. That would be a setback for expedited -- I
2435 mean, I understand we need a debate before this decision
2436 needs to happen. But it would slow down the deployment of 5
2437 because you have to deal with every locality as opposed to a
2438 national standard.

2439 Ms. Eckdish. I would love to follow up on that.

2440 Mr. Guthrie. Okay. Mr. Lyons, would you like to have a
2441 --

2442 Mr. Lyons. Yes. I think a big driver of the FCC small
2443 cell order is the fact that 5G technology is very different

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2444 than the 4G and 3G towers that were driving the original
2445 tower statutes, right.

2446 When you are talking about whether you are going to put
2447 a large tower in a town that, you know, you can see from
2448 several miles away, having significant local input makes a
2449 lot of sense.

2450 When you're talking about little pizza box-sized spaces
2451 all around town, it is a different impact. And so the trade-
2452 off between how much we should give local authority and how
2453 much we should be expediting build out of infrastructure, the
2454 calculus changes a little bit and that is part of what was
2455 driving the small cell order.

2456 I do think repealing the small cell order would slow
2457 things down because it would add an additional potential veto
2458 gate into the building out of new infrastructure.

2459 And as we saw in -- from time after time, right,
2460 satellite deployment and local franchising authority in cable
2461 industry and things like that, those additional veto gates
2462 become potential road speed bumps on the path toward
2463 deployment. We think it is opportunity for more.

2464 Mr. Guthrie. Okay. Thank you.

2465 And I think it is a fair debate and so I just wanted to
2466 bring that, moving forward.

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2467 So this would be for Professor Lyons. Many Kentuckians
2468 have been able to gain access to the internet through the
2469 expansion of wireless services.

2470 In your testimony, you mentioned the bill we are
2471 discussing today as technology neutral. I know you have
2472 mentioned something about what the speed requirements would
2473 do to threaten the ability to use innovative solutions to
2474 geographic, topographic, or economic challenges to deploying
2475 broadband in rural America.

2476 Could you expand on how the speed requirements in the
2477 bill would threaten that and, since you have touched on that
2478 already, any other provisions in the bill that might affect
2479 deployment in rural America?

2480 Mr. Lyons. Yes. I think the primary concern with a
2481 minimum speed requirement is you disqualify any technology
2482 that can't meet that speed, which limits the number of
2483 bidders available and therefore limits the areas you can
2484 serve and how cost efficiently you can do so.

2485 Now, if the speed limit is justified, right -- you say
2486 the bill sets 100 megabit per second download minimum -- if
2487 there is a justification for that like that is the amount
2488 that we think is necessary for somebody to be connected, then
2489 that is totally appropriate.

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2490 But if the proper amount is something less than that,
2491 then it doesn't make sense to me to eliminate potential
2492 bidders who can provide service in rural areas at -- to
2493 connect unconnected communities in ways that are going to
2494 give them the basic needs that they need by setting an
2495 artificially high premise.

2496 Now, you might be trying to future proof the network and
2497 I think there is arguments for that. But if you are going to
2498 do that you need to recognize it is a trade-off.

2499 Mr. Guthrie. Okay. Thanks.

2500 And I was also going to ask you about mapping. I know
2501 Cathy McMorris -- my friend from Washington just talked to
2502 you a little bit about it. Is there anything you want to
2503 expand on that about mapping and -- because they probably do
2504 get overbuilding.

2505 My area -- I have lived in Bowling Green, which is a
2506 growing progressive city in the mid-South, and even in our
2507 area because of the development of building housing, even a
2508 city that has -- a county that has gone from 75,000 to
2509 130,000 people in the last 20 years, still there is areas
2510 that home builders say, we can't build in these areas because
2511 people aren't going to buy the kind of houses we are going to
2512 build without access to broadband, even though it is right

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2513 next to a really fast-growing developing city.

2514 And then I have very rural counties, too, that don't
2515 have that same issue. Unfortunately, the opposite of growth.
2516 So how do -- just talk about how mapping close to big cities
2517 and where they are not being served or growing areas but also
2518 just areas that really need some help in moving forward.

2519 Mr. Lyons. Well, one issue you have cited is sort of
2520 outdated data, right -- that data collected no matter how
2521 accurate, if it is one or two or three years old it may not
2522 reflect the situation on the ground at the time.

2523 So I think one issue that a comprehensive mapping
2524 solution needs to undertake is how often the data gets
2525 refreshed -- how often the carriers have to report back to
2526 the FCC where their build out maps are.

2527 Mr. Guthrie. Do you think mapping should go down to
2528 Census tracts or how detailed should they be?

2529 Mr. Lyons. So it depends on -- Census tracts is useful
2530 but it doesn't always capture exactly what you are looking
2531 for. We learned in the BDS proceeding, which was the
2532 Business Data Services, is that sometimes you need to be down
2533 on almost like a block by block level to understand which
2534 particular parcels have deployment and which don't.

2535 You can have a Census tract where most of the area is

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2536 wired and we might consider that wired. But there are still
2537 places within the Census tract that are being left out.

2538 Mr. Guthrie. So when you get down to the -- I
2539 understand we would love it even house to house if you could.
2540 But the question is you get to cost benefit of that.

2541 Mr. Lyons. Right.

2542 Mr. Guthrie. And so at what point -- what do you think
2543 is the --

2544 Mr. Lyons. So the trade-off then becomes how expensive
2545 is it to get that granular of data and so one -- the
2546 ancillary question to that is what are the different ways you
2547 can try to get that granular data.

2548 If it is too expensive to get it through carrier reports
2549 can you crowd source it in a way that at least fills in some
2550 of the information and then discount it appropriately to
2551 understand the dirtiness of the source.

2552 Mr. Guthrie. Okay. Well, thank you, and that fills my
2553 questions and I will yield my time. I don't know if somebody
2554 wants it. I will yield back.

2555 The Chairman. Thank you. Mr. Tonko is next, recognized
2556 for 5 minutes.

2557 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Chairman Pallone. I will mention
2558 two statistics that I recently came across. First, China

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2559 used more cement between 2011 and 2013 than the United States
2560 used in the entire 20th century. Second, China also has
2561 421,000 electric buses in operation. The United States has
2562 300.

2563 That being said, a sound economy begins with sound
2564 infrastructure. We cannot afford to keep deferring
2565 maintenance or construction of what we know will be needed
2566 for a competitive and sustainable economy of the future. We
2567 have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest and
2568 modernize our aging infrastructure. We need a vision for
2569 what it can be and it must be a comprehensive approach. So,
2570 Chairman Pallone, I want to commend you for the LIFT America
2571 Act. It lays out that vision and I want to highlight a few
2572 important provisions.

2573 This bill makes major investments in our nation's
2574 drinking water. We made some great bipartisan progress last
2575 Congress with the Drinking Water SRF reauthorization, but we
2576 also know EPA has estimated the needs over the next 20 years
2577 at some \$473 billion. If we continue to underinvest in these
2578 systems, especially as we learn more about the extent of our
2579 challenges from lead, PFAS, and other contaminants, providing
2580 clean, reliable and affordable water will only become more
2581 difficult for local governments.

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2582 So, Mayor Wahler and Ms. Eckdish, if Congress considers
2583 an infrastructure package, how important is it that water
2584 infrastructure is included?

2585 Mr. Wahler. Everybody wants to live a long life and you
2586 have to drink water. So we have aging pipes throughout this
2587 country; towns and cities have limited capital resources out
2588 there to take care of the issue. Any way or any additional
2589 tools in the toolbox for municipalities and counties to
2590 replace pipes that are suspect contaminated is a great thing,
2591 and I hope this committee moves along with this bill to do it
2592 that way, because you can't survive without water. You need
2593 water.

2594 Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

2595 Ms. Eckdish?

2596 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, it is critically important. Thank
2597 you.

2598 Mr. Tonko. And, Mayor Wahler, do you think it is
2599 important that Congress provide support to local governments
2600 for some of these public health crises, including lead and
2601 PFAS contamination?

2602 Mr. Wahler. Well, I think it is safe to say over the
2603 last 5 years what we have seen around the country is with all
2604 these lead pipe poisoning crises going and I hate to say it,

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2605 we are probably going to see some more of that. I think if
2606 we were proactive in this room, working in collaborations
2607 with the local officials out there, we might be able to be
2608 proactive and prevent that from happening in the future.

2609 Mr. Tonko. I am also pleased that the bill includes a
2610 reauthorization of the Weatherization Assistance Program.
2611 Buildings consume about 40 percent of our national energy
2612 demand and many low-income families cannot afford the upfront
2613 costs for retrofits even when they are cost-effective
2614 investments.

2615 Mayor Wahler, how have weatherization funds helped low-
2616 income families in your community?

2617 Mr. Wahler. Well, I think in a lot of the especially in
2618 the Northeast, you have a lot of housing stock that is a lot
2619 older where traditionally the building codes weren't up to
2620 the new weatherization standards. So when there is direct
2621 grants out there that towns and cities can get their
2622 residents to retrofit there, the communities, not only are
2623 they saving on energy costs but more importantly they are
2624 saving on the carbon footprint.

2625 Mr. Tonko. This bill also covers important aspects of
2626 the transportation sector. We all know transportation is now
2627 the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United

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2628 States. We will not be able to adequately address the
2629 climate crisis or accelerate the clean energy transition
2630 unless we help finance an infrastructure build-out for
2631 cleaner vehicles.

2632 Ms. Eckdish, I already mentioned China's embrace of
2633 electric buses. Do you believe supporting zero emissions
2634 vehicle infrastructure will lead to more American jobs in
2635 manufacturing as well as charging station installation and
2636 maintenance?

2637 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, and it is critical we do it the right
2638 way. We need to make sure that across the board from grid
2639 modernization that is needed to facilitate EVs to the build-
2640 out of electric charging infrastructure to the manufacturing
2641 of the vehicles themselves that we are harnessing that
2642 opportunity here in the U.S. and not with domestic content,
2643 labor standards we are investing and leading the world in the
2644 manufacture of those vehicles and technologies.

2645 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. And do you agree that these
2646 investments will make our economy more competitive while
2647 reducing our air pollution?

2648 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, absolutely.

2649 Mr. Tonko. And, Mayor Wahler, if given the resources,
2650 will local governments do more to ensure residents have

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2651 access to this type of charging infrastructure?

2652 Mr. Wahler. You bet. I have to laugh. We are building
2653 a community center right now and when they found out there
2654 are going to be charging stations there, the first question
2655 out of a lot of the residents, "Well, how much are you going
2656 to charge for me to come charge up?"

2657 Mr. Tonko. Well, LIFT America has great provisions on
2658 transportational electrification and EV charging stations and
2659 I hope we can continue to work on a comprehensive clean
2660 transportation package that will make sure we are reducing
2661 pollution from this sector.

2662 Finally, this bill has strong provisions to promote grid
2663 modernization and resilience, but a 21st century electricity
2664 system must also be flexible. We need to ensure we are able
2665 to move electrons from where they are generated to where
2666 demand exists, and so it is upgrading that grid, but also
2667 enhancing storage, providing for the American intellect to
2668 carry us through a new generation of storage opportunities so
2669 that we can optimally utilize our gridding up with renewal
2670 power. With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

2671 The Chairman. Thank you. Next is Mr. Olson, recognized
2672 for 5 minutes.

2673 Mr. Olson. I thank the chair and welcome to our six

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2674 witnesses. My question will be to you, Mr. Guith. It is
2675 going to be about pipelines and energy infrastructure.

2676 As you all know, right now this country is facing
2677 enhanced U.S. global energy dominance. We are making more
2678 oil and natural gas than almost the entire world. One
2679 example from Texas, there is this place called the Permian
2680 Basin in West Texas. It has been predicted by our government
2681 that within 2 years that one massive shale play in Texas will
2682 produce more oil and natural gas than every country in the
2683 world except for Saudi Arabia. That is more than Russia.
2684 That is more every OPEC nation and that is just one shale
2685 play right here in America.

2686 Of course, this renaissance, this dominance will die if
2687 we don't have the pipelines to get the oil, natural gas, and
2688 all the things through the pipeline to where they have to go,
2689 to go to the market. FERC is in charge of approving
2690 pipelines and they are having some problems with the
2691 excessive demands for new pipelines, for LNG export plants.
2692 They are involved in all that.

2693 I have got a bill with Mike Doyle to address all their
2694 problems with their employees. They are the best in the
2695 business. They are getting poached by the private sector big
2696 time because they can pay almost twice the salaries of the

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2697 federal government. We have a model to give them more pay to
2698 keep them on board, it comes from the SCC. Again, Mike Doyle
2699 and I have sponsored this bill.

2700 My question is for you, can you talk about why
2701 permitting certainty is so important for America's energy
2702 dominance and does this apply to all technologies, not just
2703 oil but also LNG exports, hydropower dams, anything, could
2704 this help? Any comments about our bill and the challenge we
2705 have building pipelines?

2706 Mr. Guith. Absolutely. This stuff is not cheap.
2707 Whether you are talking about utility scale solar farms,
2708 whether you are talking about multistate pipelines, I mean
2709 many of them run in the orders of billions of dollars. Even
2710 some of the LNG facilities that we are seeing coming on line
2711 now are in excess of \$10 billion.

2712 So if you are a project sponsor or, more importantly,
2713 you are an investor who may invest in that project, you know,
2714 you have to hedge it against the certainty and handicap it
2715 against it not getting approved, even though there is a
2716 commercial demand for that to happen. And that is true
2717 across all forms of generation and energy use. And the more
2718 certainty, the more unconstrained that capital will flow to
2719 those projects.

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2720 Mr. Olson. Next question is for you, Mr. Lyons. It is
2721 about pipelines and all the communications necessary when it
2722 is a disaster like a hurricane.

2723 During the last Congress, I introduced H.R. 4845 which
2724 was called the Connecting Communities Post Disaster Act. As
2725 you know, disasters can destroy telecom systems at their
2726 moment of the most highest, the greatest need. In Houston
2727 during Hurricane Harvey, after Hurricane Ike came in about 10
2728 years before, we made a big effort to dig all our power lines
2729 and put them and our communications lines underground. We
2730 had did pretty well, but you have to add, that information
2731 has to flow.

2732 First responders have to have -- where are the flooded
2733 roads, where are the problems? Citizens who might be
2734 evacuated, okay, you can't go this route, go this route.
2735 These communications are a matter of life and death. And
2736 with hurricanes, the season looming just 1 short week away,
2737 what do you think Congress should do to get this process of
2738 making our telecommunication system more viable and stronger
2739 during an absolute disaster like a hurricane?

2740 Mr. Lyons. No, I think it is absolutely right that
2741 communications are absolutely vital. We saw it in addition
2742 to in Texas, in Puerto Rico as well, right. The difficulty

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2743 of communicating with those who were affected made it a lot
2744 harder to get them the relief they needed. I think things
2745 like undergrounding like emergency power backups can help.
2746 They are expensive, right, and so it is always a trade-off.

2747 How much are you going to invest now to harden the
2748 infrastructure and how much is it going to pay off in the
2749 event of a natural disaster? The provisions that are being
2750 available for Next Generation 911, I think, are going to be
2751 significantly helpful in that respect in figuring out how to
2752 not just modernize the first responder network, but harden it
2753 as well.

2754 Mr. Olson. Thank you. My time has expired. One PSA,
2755 public service announcement, the Houston Astros are in first
2756 place of the Western Division of the American League of
2757 Baseball. I yield back.

2758 Mr. Lyons. The Red Sox are not proud of how much they
2759 contributed to that.

2760 Mr. Olson. Three games. We won three up there in
2761 Fenway, you all won one. We will get you back in the
2762 playoffs.

2763 The Chairman. Thanks to the gentleman. Mr. Welch,
2764 recognized for 5 minutes.

2765 Mr. Welch. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr.

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2766 Chairman. First of all, I want to thank you and our other
2767 chairs, Mr. Rush, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Tonko. This
2768 is a great bill and it has got some of the provisions in the
2769 HOMES Act that I have co-sponsored with Mr. McKinley. And
2770 this is such a good ambitious bill I am ready to move the
2771 bill.

2772 The Chairman. Yeah, well.

2773 Mr. Welch. And I am really quite --

2774 The Chairman. Do you got any cash?

2775 Mr. Welch. This is the ambitious -- all right, let's
2776 go. But we have been talking about infrastructure for so
2777 long it is time to do it. We all know we need it. I am
2778 really excited about the HOMES Act that is in here. I am
2779 excited about the Smart Buildings that I co-authored with Mr.
2780 Kinzinger. But every one of us on the committee, I think,
2781 has provisions in here. And the witnesses are all here
2782 advocating things that we think make an awful lot of sense.

2783 So my hope is, and I think all of our hopes is that we
2784 are actually going to move on this bill and push it out. We
2785 always have the challenge of how do you pay for it, but last
2786 I knew potholes don't fix themselves. And I have indicated a
2787 willingness to support just about any revenue measure that
2788 will make this happen, because I think at the end of the day

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2789 as much as there is always resistance to paying for things,
2790 our constituents know that they don't fix themselves.

2791 And once you start seeing the benefits of, say,
2792 broadband build-out or clean energy options or the grid
2793 resilience or fixing up the water systems, then people see
2794 that that is going to benefit them and their willingness to
2795 accept it is enhanced enormously.

2796 Let me start with Mayor Wahler. Are you okay with us
2797 coming up with a way of paying for this? I mean you have a
2798 hard job right on the front lines.

2799 Mr. Wahler. Well, Congressman Welch, one of the big
2800 things, anytime that the federal government can help. We are
2801 not asking you to pay a hundred percent. Towns and cities
2802 already pay about 80 to 90 percent of everything that is
2803 going on.

2804 Mr. Welch. Exactly.

2805 Mr. Wahler. If there is even down payment money on
2806 long-term plans for communities or for when we have to go for
2807 long-term bonding for such improvements that is a good thing.
2808 So when we go for the financial markets, if we could show
2809 that there is a consistent basis that there will be grant
2810 money targeted towards that, that it makes things easier to
2811 put --

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2812 Mr. Welch. Right. No, I appreciate that. I met with
2813 eight of our mayors in Vermont and they said pretty much what
2814 you said and they vary in their political points of view.

2815 Mr. Wahler. Yeah.

2816 Mr. Welch. But they know that they have incredible
2817 needs, limited tax base, huge burdens on property taxpayers
2818 and the federal government has to help. So thank you very
2819 much.

2820 Ms. Clyburn, it is good to have you back.

2821 Ms. Clyburn. Thank you.

2822 Mr. Welch. And broadband build-out is part of this. It
2823 is absolutely essential as you know and I think many of us
2824 here know that rural America is getting written off if we
2825 don't have the same high-speed internet that urban America
2826 has. So if we are successful in getting broadband
2827 infrastructure passed in this bill, how do we future-proof,
2828 because I don't want us to get a one-time deal where then we
2829 are constantly playing catch-up. Can you comment on that?

2830 Ms. Clyburn. So, with respect to my fellow panelists, I
2831 say we go big. I say minimally, you know, a hundred
2832 megabits. I say that because not only do our communities
2833 need it and they will need it in the future, it would keep us
2834 competitive internationally.

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2835 One thing, if you will allow me a couple of minutes, in
2836 2012, China, because that was mentioned once, had 20.3
2837 million homes that had fiber, you know, connected, fiber
2838 connected to the home. Today they have almost 400 million.
2839 If we are going to stay competitive, if we are going to give
2840 our communities and the individuals in our communities the
2841 tools that they need to stay competitive domestically and
2842 internationally we have to go big.

2843 Mr. Welch. Okay, thank you.

2844 And I want to ask Ms. Eckdish from the BlueGreen
2845 Alliance, first of all, I think the BlueGreen Alliance is so
2846 good. We are getting people together who sometimes competing
2847 points of view to do something that makes sense for all of
2848 us, so thank you. And your advocacy, the BlueGreen Alliance,
2849 is really essential to the potential of us being successful.

2850 You talked about energy efficiency in public buildings.
2851 How could that help us not just to reduce carbon emissions
2852 but who does the work on that?

2853 Ms. Eckdish. Sure, thank you for the question. Energy
2854 efficiency does have tremendous environmental impacts. It
2855 has tremendous job impacts as well. As I mentioned earlier,
2856 we have over two million workers today in energy efficiency.
2857 Those are construction workers installing HVAC, other energy

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2858 efficiency upgrades.

2859 It is also workers in the manufacturing sector. We have
2860 almost 300,000 workers that are today manufacturing energy
2861 efficient component parts. So there is tremendous potential.
2862 There is already good jobs today in the energy efficiency
2863 sector and tremendous opportunity for expansion.

2864 Mr. Welch. Great. I see my time is up, but I want to
2865 also thank the Chamber for the tremendous work that it has
2866 been doing in this area. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2867 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Welch. Next is Mr.
2868 McKinley, recognized for 5 minutes.

2869 Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, as I
2870 read through this bill you reminded me of a kid in a candy
2871 store. You could have had anything you wanted in this
2872 legislation. You are The Chairman of the most powerful
2873 committee in Congress. Your party is in control of the
2874 House. But then you went into the candy shop and you left
2875 with a stick of gum.

2876 We have the opportunity to do something bold and robust
2877 on energy infrastructure, but this committee so far is aiming
2878 low. This is the Energy and Commerce Committee. After 5
2879 months in the majority, is this really the best that this
2880 committee can do on energy infrastructure? Yes, we have

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2881 aspects of modest initiatives in broadband, drinking water,
2882 in health care and brownfields, and some of that I will
2883 support with you and I realize there may be jurisdictional
2884 limitations.

2885 But with all the hype about what we need in a
2886 comprehensive infrastructure bill, why haven't we sought a
2887 bolder, broader, more comprehensive bipartisan approach to
2888 this? But not one, not when there is just 31 Democrats on
2889 the bill and no Republicans. There are numerous bipartisan
2890 bills that could have been included in this, the 48A Tax
2891 Credit by Collin Peterson, the Gas Turbine Efficiency, Paul
2892 Tonko's, or Scott Peters', the USE IT Act.

2893 The LIFT America Act was billed as a sweeping
2894 legislation to combat climate change, and yet it glaringly
2895 omits authorizing energy research to produce innovation and
2896 solutions and research. Research including carbon capture
2897 and storage, gas turbine efficiency, methane hydrates,
2898 battery storage, fugitive methane emissions, alternative to
2899 lithium-ion batteries and cobalt, rare-earth elements,
2900 wireless power transmission, hydrogen fuel cells, small
2901 nuclear and modular coal plants.

2902 Keep in mind, Mr. Chairman, America currently spends
2903 more money on eating potato chips than it does on research

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2904 and energy. Mr. Chairman, we had a chance to put together a
2905 package that you wanted. You had the keys to the candy
2906 store. So let's be bold and include some bipartisan measures
2907 that gives this bill a chance to pass the Senate and be
2908 signed into law. The American people deserve better.

2909 To win the big game, Michael Jordan knew he had to have
2910 the confidence to take that last shot, that game-winning shot
2911 when he had the chance. Instead of taking that risk, this
2912 committee appears to be passing the ball. It is a lost
2913 opportunity.

2914 So, Mr. Guith, if I can ask you on this, you mentioned
2915 Scott Peters' USE IT Act in your testimony. Would more
2916 innovation and research be beneficial to addressing the
2917 infrastructure problems we have on energy and particularly as
2918 it relates to combating the climate change challenges that
2919 face -- would energy and research be helpful?

2920 Mr. Guith. Most definitely. I mean climate change is
2921 inherently a technology issue, but it is also an
2922 infrastructure issue. And there is significant scientific
2923 consensus that specific technologies are most likely, no
2924 guarantee, to be key to addressing, to lowering emissions and
2925 ultimately preventing emissions globally.

2926 One of them is carbon capture utilization and storage.

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2927 In order -- one end of that obviously is capturing the carbon
2928 which in and of itself is a challenge, but we are seeing
2929 significant innovation happening there. But at the other end
2930 is what you do with it, so you need to have the
2931 infrastructure to move it and then to ultimately sequester it
2932 geologically or otherwise permanently.

2933 And the USE IT Act is a great first step in pairing with
2934 the fiscal policy that Congress has put in place in order to
2935 make it easier to site and permit those projects and also
2936 incentivize them. And that is a key step forward for U.S.
2937 innovation that will hopefully lead the globe in a move
2938 towards a much less emitting and ultimately not emitting
2939 economy.

2940 Mr. McKinley. Thank you. I mean there are so many
2941 things on the capturing the carbon. We get oxycombustion.
2942 We get chemical looping. There are so many things we could
2943 do, but we have a chance in this bill and we omitted it. We
2944 could have authorized more research to go for it. So again,
2945 I yield back the balance of my time.

2946 The Chairman. Thank you. Next is Mr. Loeb sack,
2947 recognized for 5 minutes.

2948 Mr. Loeb sack. Well, thank you, Chairman Pallone and
2949 Ranking Member Walden. I thank the witnesses for being here

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2950 today. I do want to echo my friend Peter Welch's comments
2951 about what a great bill this. I really do believe it is.

2952 And just, if I might, to respond to my colleague, Mr.
2953 McKinley, I would like to see more in this too. There is a
2954 lot more out there that we could be doing. Not to defend the
2955 particular approach that we have here, but I will say that
2956 often in this body and over in the Senate, the bigger you
2957 make a bill, the more targets there are for the opposition
2958 and the harder, therefore, it is to get it passed. But I am
2959 certainly open. I don't want to, you know, I can't speak for
2960 The Chairman or the ranking member, but I am open to adding
2961 some more things to it too, if we can get bipartisan support
2962 for that. There are a lot of great ideas out there.

2963 One of the things, one of the ideas that I look forward
2964 to discussing further is a bill that I have worked closely
2965 with Representative Mullin, Markwayne Mullin, the
2966 Communications Jobs Training Act. And this bill would
2967 provide funding to develop training programs, workforce
2968 programs for construction, and maintenance for these
2969 communication towers.

2970 I visited one of these just recently. I didn't go up as
2971 high as a couple of our commissioners. In fact, I didn't go
2972 up at all because those things are awfully damn tall. But I

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2973 put all the equipment on and it was really quite fascinating.
2974 We are clearly going to need more people to do these jobs
2975 down the road to construct more of these towers.

2976 And in conjunction with the tower infrastructure we need
2977 of course broadband infrastructure and that has been talked a
2978 lot about today. I am really happy to see that this bill
2979 includes \$40 billion for this purpose. I am from Iowa, a
2980 rural district of 24 counties, probably twelve or thirteen
2981 thousand square miles. We have a lot of problems there when
2982 it comes to rural broadband. And I have been for now a
2983 number of years raising the issue related to the poor quality
2984 of the FCC's maps which has been talked about already today.

2985 I am glad this bill does start with maps that Congress
2986 has funded at the NTIA the last few years, and I am glad that
2987 the mapping section requires the FCC to consider publicly
2988 available -- publicly available broadband information and
2989 that the challenge process minimizes the regulatory burdens.
2990 That is really something that I think is important.

2991 And, Commissioner Clyburn, I would like you to speak to
2992 that issue. Why is it critical that any challenge process be
2993 conducted with the least burden, the least burden on
2994 customers and those doing the challenging?

2995 Ms. Clyburn. Because when you see something wrong, it

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2996 should not be a heartache to point it out. It is as simple
2997 as that. And so I am glad you pointed that out and I am
2998 proud to brag -- Mr. Duncan has already left -- that my state
2999 will be a part of that publicly available, you know, mapping
3000 universe, because it is producing its own broadband mapping
3001 plan. And so in addition to that, Microsoft has, you know,
3002 an infrastructure for you to reference. It is an all-of-the-
3003 above approach, because again all eyes are not going to see
3004 everything and it is important for us to know what is there.

3005 Mr. Loeb sack. And make that challenge process as
3006 transparent and as easy as possible as well.

3007 Ms. Clyburn. Absolutely, absolutely.

3008 Mr. Loeb sack. Because there are a lot of other
3009 different sources of information out there that we ought to
3010 be taking advantage of. And I will just mention, 2 times ago
3011 I think it was, when Chairman Pai was here, he -- maybe 3
3012 times ago. He mentioned that he had been traveling in
3013 Northwest Iowa and he had a lot of dropped calls and lot of
3014 problems up in that part of the state. I am in the southeast
3015 part but I grew up in the northwest part.

3016 But all over Iowa, all over rural America we have
3017 problems. And it says that we have good service in those
3018 areas if you look at the FCC map, but it is simply not the

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3019 case. My view is we can't move forward if we don't have good
3020 mapping in the first -- we have to know where the problems
3021 are if we are going to solve the problems, and right now we
3022 don't have good --

3023 Ms. Clyburn. And I am proud to brag that I was part of
3024 pushing in the Mobility Fund, Phase I and Phase II.

3025 Mr. Loeb sack. Yes, you were. And thank you for your
3026 service.

3027 Ms. Clyburn. Thank you. I appreciate that.

3028 Mr. Loeb sack. I really appreciate that, Commissioner.

3029 Look, I am very proud that my home state of Iowa is a
3030 leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. I often
3031 talk about wind energy accounting for nearly 40 percent of
3032 our electricity in the state of Iowa. And this is a key
3033 moment for the committee to play a role in addressing climate
3034 change and this bill does make several key investments for
3035 our energy future, although I am willing to entertain more
3036 possibilities.

3037 It does include my bill, the Rebuild America's Schools
3038 Act which will help schools modernize and make critical
3039 energy efficient upgrades. It will create jobs, a really
3040 good thing, right? It will reduce emissions. It will
3041 produce long-term cost savings for our schools. This is

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3042 something I have been trying to get through for a number of
3043 years as well, all while providing our students with top-
3044 notch learning environments.

3045 We know that the environment in which our students learn
3046 and our educators teach can have an immense impact on the
3047 quality of education our children receive, and that makes, I
3048 think, this a win-win situation all the way around for
3049 workers, for students, for parents, for educators and our
3050 administrators as well.

3051 Ms. Eckdish, in your testimony you mentioned the
3052 importance of upgrading our nation's inefficient and
3053 unhealthy school buildings as part of a smart infrastructure
3054 package. I know you are not an expert on education as such,
3055 but can you speak generally about the impact in investing in
3056 modern and efficient school facilities would have on the
3057 health of our students and the quality of their learning
3058 environments, not to mention the jobs obviously associated
3059 with this?

3060 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, thank you for the question. And
3061 thank you for raising schools. We absolutely think they
3062 should be a key part of the infrastructure discussion and I
3063 would be remiss if I didn't say we strongly support the
3064 Rebuild America's Schools Act which has broad support across

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3065 Congress as well.

3066 We know as you said that investing in schools has
3067 tremendous impacts on students, teachers, other staff at
3068 these facilities from the health of their learning
3069 environments. Schools are -- we have many schools with
3070 asbestos, lead, a host of health issues. We also know that
3071 making energy efficient upgrades can save schools money that
3072 they can then reinvest in their schools, so there is clear
3073 economic and environmental benefits. There is also
3074 tremendous job benefits as well for on both the construction
3075 side and again on the manufacturing side as well.

3076 Mr. Loeb sack. Yeah, I taught at a college. My wife
3077 taught second grade for over 30 years. I know that from a
3078 curricular standpoint too we can even incorporate some of the
3079 changes that maybe did take place in a particular school
3080 setting into the curriculum, and maybe even some of those
3081 students who go home and tell their parents about how great
3082 green schools are and we could spread the good word that way
3083 as well.

3084 Commissioner Clyburn, I know you already did talk about
3085 a future-proof rural America. Do you want to elaborate at
3086 all? I know you mentioned a hundred meg, for example.

3087 Ms. Clyburn. Well, again, I think we should start there

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3088 and aim up, because, you know, this is an international race.
3089 And is it a race for people to be able to take advantage of
3090 telemedicine and other opportunities? You are going to need
3091 speed. You are going to need fiber. You are going to need
3092 those investments to ensure that that happens. We cannot
3093 afford to look through today's lens, a 2019 lens. We need to
3094 look far into the future and we don't want to come back here
3095 another 5 or 6 years from now, you know, Groundhog Day was a
3096 great movie, but it not, you know, the way in terms of, you
3097 know, implementing policies and procedures.

3098 Mr. Loeb sack. Thank you so much. Thanks to all of you.
3099 And I yield back.

3100 The Chairman. Thank you. Mr. Griffith is next.

3101 Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it
3102 greatly and I appreciate talking about rebuilding American
3103 schools in many of my counties or in a few of my counties.
3104 The counties are having a hard time and I just want to make
3105 sure there is enough flexibility in there that, you know, we
3106 are trying to keep the rain from coming in. If we can sneak
3107 away to do that and put some solar panels up there, I am all
3108 for it because that is the way we can have a win-win. But I
3109 did want to mention that.

3110 Mr. Lyons, I want to appreciate you talking about

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3111 crowdsourcing, because as Ms. Clyburn pointed out sometimes,
3112 or somebody did that maps don't always reflect -- the FCC
3113 maps aren't always accurate. I can assure you the folks in
3114 my district can tell you exactly where they do and don't have
3115 service, because, you know.

3116 And what is amazing is, in some of those counties that
3117 are having a harder time -- I represent 22 counties and seven
3118 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is a
3119 big rural district. Some of the counties are having a hard
3120 time and they don't have service and so we need to do
3121 something about it. But what is surprising, and this is
3122 where the maps won't show it, I have people who don't have
3123 service within a mile or two outside of the town of
3124 Blacksburg, Virginia, home of Virginia Tech.

3125 Now Blacksburg is one of the most wired communities out
3126 there, but I have people who work there who don't have
3127 service at their homes. And so -- and I like your approach,
3128 Mr. Lyons, when you said in your written testimony that
3129 instead of talking about the megabits or the gig or the, you
3130 know, the upload and the download speeds, let's put it in
3131 terms of what they can get. So how much do we need in those
3132 areas to make sure the kids can do their homework?

3133 Mr. Lyons. Appreciate the question, thank you. Yeah,

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3134 so we can just start just by figuring out what are the things
3135 that we need to guarantee that anybody should be able to do
3136 online, right. The examples I gave in my testimony, Skype,
3137 which is two-way video conferencing, required about 1.2
3138 megabits per second. Netflix calls for about four megabits
3139 per second in order to get high definition feeds.

3140 So a 25 megabit per second would support both Skype and
3141 multiple Netflix streams with space to spare. Now Netflix
3142 will tell you it requires 25 megabits per second for their
3143 big 4K download, but I am not sure we should be in the
3144 business of subsidizing the ability to download Orange is the
3145 New Black in super 4K rather than just high definition.

3146 Mr. Griffith. Now, correct me if I am wrong because I
3147 am here to learn. That is why I love committee hearings. If
3148 you can do the Netflix, the regular stuff at 5, then that
3149 means that most of my kids could do their homework all over
3150 the district if we had at least the 25 or the 5; is that
3151 correct?

3152 Mr. Lyons. Yes, I think that is right. My son says 25
3153 is a fair compromise between what the bare minimum would be
3154 and what would be a reasonable amount, right. So I don't
3155 think it is enough to just say, okay, you can do your
3156 homework and it is going to be a little bit slow, but you

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3157 know, you want to make sure you are giving a little bit of a
3158 comfortable margin. Twenty-five gets you there. By the time
3159 you get to about 100 megabits per second you are talking
3160 about things like, I don't know, 3D holographic two-way
3161 communication and stuff like that which, you know, it may be
3162 the wave of the future --

3163 Mr. Griffith. Great.

3164 Mr. Lyons. -- I am not sure that is where we should be
3165 investing all of our money now.

3166 Mr. Griffith. Well, and I would tell you my feeling is,
3167 step one, let's make sure everybody's got the 25. Then once
3168 we get there where everybody in the country has that, then
3169 yeah, I am all for moving it up and making those speeds
3170 faster as we go across.

3171 One of my counties recently has announced through their
3172 telephone company that they are going to go actually to a gig
3173 download and 500 upload which is just great, and they plan to
3174 have it all rolled out by 2021. And they are putting the
3175 infrastructure in and they have gotten some grant money from
3176 us and I think that is great. But then I worry about those
3177 folks on the other side of the line who may not have
3178 anything. And so, I want to make sure they get service, so I
3179 do appreciate that.

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3180 Mr. Lyons. Thank you.

3181 Mr. Griffith. I want to talk a little bit about hydro.
3182 My colleagues have talked about that some. I had a bill and,
3183 Mr. Guith, if you could help me with this. I had a bill
3184 where we could do closed loop inside mines and I thought that
3185 was really interesting. But recently, I visited a national
3186 historic landmark building in Wytheville, Virginia. The dam
3187 has been certified. It is fine, everything is great. The
3188 sluice is still there, if I am using the right terminology.
3189 The only thing they don't have any more are turbines.

3190 It would seem to me that if we could figure out a way to
3191 cut through the red tape and reactivate this dam -- Ms.
3192 McMorris Rodgers mentioned that I think only three percent of
3193 the dams have hydro capabilities -- they have the spot to put
3194 them in. The owner is not opposed to that. He got it on the
3195 National Registry because he bought it and it was falling,
3196 not falling down but it was just in bad repair and he has
3197 fixed the building up.

3198 What can we do? Because, you know, he indicated that it
3199 might be hard to sell that electricity. He doesn't know how
3200 to do it. How can we make folks who actually have a dam that
3201 already is sitting there that was used a hundred years ago to
3202 make electricity, do it? And am I correct that having a lot

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3203 of these small dams in operation would actually help improve
3204 the resiliency of our grid?

3205 Mr. Guith. Yes, absolutely. The reliability that a
3206 base load like hydro brings is incredibly important because
3207 it is able to cycle. So as you bring more renewables into
3208 the grid that are variable and come and go based on the
3209 availability of the sun or the wind, having resources like
3210 peaking gas or hydro is incredibly important to follow that
3211 load as it fluctuates so we can keep the grid stable and
3212 ensure that you have that reliability.

3213 Ultimately, to your question as far as how to make it
3214 happen, it helps to have state sponsorship, but ultimately it
3215 is a NEPA question and there are a lot of folks who don't
3216 want to see those dams turned into hydroelectric generators
3217 for environmental reasons. And I think that the Pacific
3218 Northwest from the Washington border all the way through
3219 California has shown success after success where the
3220 hydroelectric generation can coexist with the environmental
3221 concerns.

3222 Mr. Griffith. Let's work together. I see my time is
3223 way over and I need to yield back. But thank you.

3224 The Chairman. Thank you. The gentlewoman from
3225 Delaware, Ms. Blunt Rochester, recognized for 5 minutes.

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3226 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman
3227 Pallone, first of all, I would like to congratulate you on
3228 this comprehensive and important legislation. I also want to
3229 thank the witnesses. This was a really great panel of
3230 witnesses. And commend my subcommittee chairs and members
3231 who were part of the collective leadership on the issues that
3232 are included in the LIFT America Act. This legislation to me
3233 impacts our health, it impacts our education, our security,
3234 our economy, our competitiveness as a country and also my
3235 state, but ultimately the planet. And so, I am proud to be a
3236 co-sponsor.

3237 And I want to ask a few questions about broadband maps
3238 and coverage, but first I just want to clarify something
3239 between Professor Lyons and Ms. Clyburn on the minimum
3240 standard. Now if I am understanding this correctly,
3241 Professor Lyons, you are positing that 25 would be fine for
3242 the things that are kind of the minimum things that are
3243 needed; did I hear that correctly? And then just yes or no.

3244 Mr. Lyons. Yeah, that is right.

3245 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Okay. And then, Ms. Clyburn, I
3246 thought I heard you mention 100. Can you elaborate a little
3247 bit on why, because I understood what you said that you don't
3248 need to be streaming, you know, Game of Thrones, but what I

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3249 want to understand from Ms. Clyburn is why she says a
3250 hundred.

3251 Ms. Clyburn. Well, I will just simply say this. We
3252 need to do this one time. And if you want to do this one
3253 time, you need to future-proof it. And to future-proof it
3254 you need to look to the future and look to your international
3255 competitors in terms of what they are doing. There is no one
3256 internationally that we are observing and following that is
3257 doing anything less than a hundred megabits.

3258 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you for sharing that. That
3259 is really particularly important for me because one of the
3260 areas I am focused on is the future of work. And it is
3261 really the future of how we are living and it is happening to
3262 us right now, and so I don't want to see us start behind.
3263 Let's start ahead and be bold.

3264 I would like to focus on the coverage maps. First and
3265 in particular, if we could focus on, you know, the
3266 committee's prioritization of un-served areas and the
3267 benchmark of the 25 megabits per second. And I am glad the
3268 bill does not rely on the FCC's inaccurate Form 477 data.
3269 For example, FCC's coverage map suggests that the entirety of
3270 Delaware has at least one provider that provides at least 25
3271 megabits per second.

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3272 But I know that that is not true and I hear from many of
3273 my constituents every day that they are, and stakeholders,
3274 that they are in areas that are dead zones, both in urban
3275 areas as well as rural. People might not know Delaware also
3276 has a huge rural community as well.

3277 Ms. Clyburn, again thank you so much for your testimony,
3278 but also thank you for your former service, public service at
3279 the FCC. And I was struck by your testimony because you
3280 mentioned the need to improve these maps and I think it makes
3281 sense for the FCC to look to the more trusted, publicly
3282 available data as you suggest.

3283 Can you talk about what additional recommendations you
3284 would have for the committee for both improving the coverage
3285 maps and utilizing a fairer and more accurate process for
3286 getting at those communities that are un-served as defined by
3287 the LIFT America Act?

3288 Ms. Clyburn. In addition, I say that the FCC could use
3289 its subscription information, you know, to look and compare.
3290 That seems really intuitive, but it is not being done. And I
3291 guess I don't want to be repetitive, I think that is the only
3292 thing that other than the form they need to go ahead to order
3293 on the reforms and when it comes to Form 477.

3294 One person having service in an area should not the

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3295 whole area be considered coverage. That is a problem that
3296 makes no sense. I don't know what type of map that is, but
3297 it is not the map that is bringing and closing divides in
3298 America.

3299 Ms. Blunt Rochester. It looks like that is consistent
3300 across the panel, I would say.

3301 And, Mr. Wahler, I am going to switch really quickly in
3302 the last 40 seconds to drinking water, the drinking water
3303 title. Mr. Wahler, one of the issues that my state of
3304 Delaware consistently has is maintaining the drinking water
3305 infrastructure that we already have built. By some
3306 estimates, Delaware is a hundred million dollars short on an
3307 annual basis. Can you talk about why it is important to
3308 continue to invest in the drinking water infrastructure?

3309 Mr. Wahler. Thank you, Congresswoman. Everybody knows
3310 that, you know, anytime you are digging underground it costs
3311 a heck of a lot more money than above ground, and that is why
3312 the large city and the expense of municipalities and counties
3313 such as your state have because of the nature where it has to
3314 be buried under the frost line.

3315 But, more importantly, is there is a lot of extensions
3316 where it goes into the schools or it goes into your
3317 residential neighborhood. It is all encompassing and it is a

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3318 very costly measure. And, for instance, if you are only
3319 doing \$10 million a year and you have \$100 million worth of
3320 infrastructure, that is not -- you are just not getting there
3321 where you need to get there.

3322 Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you. My time has expired.

3323 The Chairman. Next is Mr. Long, recognized for 5
3324 minutes.

3325 Mr. Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And my oldest
3326 daughter, our oldest daughter, Barbara and my oldest daughter
3327 turns 33 years old today. She is a pediatrician back in
3328 Springfield, Missouri where I hail from. When she turned 25,
3329 8 years ago today, we had an EF5 tornado in Joplin, Missouri
3330 that killed 161 people in a town of 50,000, so everyone knew
3331 someone that had perished in that horrific event.

3332 Yesterday we had tornadoes that touched down in my
3333 district all across Southwest Missouri. Over in the
3334 Southeast Missouri, Jason Smith's district, a lot of damage
3335 from tornadoes and that caused our Governor, Mike Parson to
3336 declare a state of emergency. Severe weather events like
3337 these are, unfortunately, way too common in what we call
3338 tornado alley in my neck of the woods and communities are
3339 constantly impacted.

3340 There is money in this bill to establish a grant program

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3341 at the Department of Energy to provide money to states that
3342 enhance electric infrastructure resiliency, reliability, and
3343 security. The utility industry also spends significant sums
3344 of money each year on efforts to make their infrastructure
3345 more resilient. I want to make sure that this program is not
3346 duplicative and does not hamper investments at the private
3347 sector in these capabilities.

3348 And for you, Mr. Guith, how does this bill ensure money
3349 and resources are spent wisely on energy infrastructure
3350 resilience and not harming the investment by private
3351 companies on this work?

3352 Mr. Guith. I think it makes great strides in addressing
3353 the issue and trying to integrate by deferring to some extent
3354 to the secretary. But in one specific example, which I
3355 mentioned in my written testimony on the Transformer Reserve,
3356 Congress challenged the Department of Energy to look at the
3357 need for one back when the FAST Act was passed. Ultimately,
3358 Oak Ridge National Lab did a deep dive analysis and
3359 Department of Energy came back and recommended to Congress
3360 that there does not need to be a separate reserve because
3361 industry, because of its own responsibilities to its
3362 ratepayers and its customers, had established such
3363 redundancies in reserves already.

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3364 And so, we would recommend within the context of the
3365 LIFT Act that the monies that are addressed to go to the
3366 Transformer Reserve be instead focused on the research within
3367 the components, which the act also addresses, which is where
3368 we need more research in order to make the equipment that we
3369 do have or the equipment tomorrow that much more resilient
3370 against severe weather issues.

3371 Mr. Long. Okay, thank you.

3372 And, Mr. Lyons, when it comes to the Broadband
3373 Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, there is nothing
3374 included to address overbuilding or coordination language.
3375 The committee spent considerable time last Congress
3376 legislating against overbuilding and promoting coordination
3377 amongst government entities. Will this legislation present a
3378 setback there?

3379 Mr. Lyons. I think more explicit language about
3380 coordination would be helpful. It helps that the money is
3381 being invested in the Federal Communications Commission
3382 because it has its hand in the other pie, so it has the
3383 ability to coordinate in the various broadband reach-out
3384 initiatives that we have. But it would be helpful if
3385 Congress provided more explicit direction.

3386 Mr. Long. Okay, thank you.

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3387 And expanding internet access in rural areas is a top
3388 priority for many on this committee and we need to make sure
3389 we are all doing what we can to fix this problem. I have
3390 been working with Senator Marsha Blackburn who was a former
3391 member of this committee, a lot of you remember, on a
3392 broadband infrastructure bill, the Internet Exchange Act.

3393 The Internet Exchange Act focuses on improving broadband
3394 infrastructure in rural America by promoting more internet
3395 exchange facilities around the United States. I look forward
3396 to working with this committee in ways we can address the
3397 need to strengthen internet access in rural and other
3398 underserved areas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3399 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Soto is next.

3400 Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is pretty clear
3401 that America is eager for 21st century infrastructure
3402 upgrade. We see it all throughout our districts, both sides
3403 of the aisle. And, you know, we are the most productive,
3404 most powerful nation in the world, yet this seems to continue
3405 to be a problem. We are at GDP of 21.5 trillion with China
3406 quickly gaining at 14.2 trillion, and I kind of -- we have to
3407 imagine what we would be able to do if we actually had a
3408 modern infrastructure to work with and what that would mean
3409 for the future of our economy.

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3410 And it seems to me the biggest hurdle has been political
3411 dysfunction over the past couple years, particularly with
3412 regard to how to pay for it. We have seen no increase in the
3413 gas tax since 1993. Tax cuts for the rich and big
3414 corporations blew a 2.3 trillion-dollar hole in the revenue
3415 outlook for the next 10 years. Infrastructure proposals were
3416 only 25 percent of the federal funding where it is going
3417 towards it which failed from the start.

3418 Even the term "Infrastructure Week" has become a running
3419 joke sometimes in Washington. So the big question then I ask
3420 my committee members both in both sides of the aisle is, so
3421 what are we going to do? Are we going to do this or what?
3422 Are we going to actually put forward a major infrastructure
3423 project or are we just going to sit around and say we are
3424 going to and then never do with the revenue issues that we
3425 have to?

3426 I want to start with rural broadband and broadband in
3427 general. I represent areas not only in suburban Orlando, but
3428 in rural Osceola County and Polk County. And I was really
3429 struck by a really wise member of the U.S. House, Majority
3430 Whip Clyburn, who told me a story about his district where
3431 most of the kids in a class that he recently went to failed
3432 because the homework was being given online and they didn't

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3433 have access to it. And he used that to talk about this, how
3434 rural communities are falling behind in technology.

3435 So, Commissioner Clyburn, it would be great to hear from
3436 you. How important is the LIFT Act and broadband internet
3437 build-out across the country to rural communities in closing
3438 that productivity and education gap?

3439 Ms. Clyburn. This will address the most pervasive gaps
3440 that I have seen in my regulatory lifetime. It will serve to
3441 better equalize those communities without. It will
3442 recalibrate and reshape the narrative when it comes to what
3443 is possible, what is accessible, and address what is needed.
3444 And it is very targeted. It goes -- it is seeking to go to
3445 areas with the most need, not where the business case is not
3446 being made. It decouples from that and I think it is very
3447 important. The role of government is to be proactive in
3448 areas where the private sector is not or is not incented to
3449 do so. This does that.

3450 Mr. Soto. And being the great equalizer. So thank you
3451 for that, Commissioner.

3452 Ms. Clyburn. And I agree, he is a pretty great guy.

3453 Mr. Soto. He is a pretty great guy.

3454 Ms. Eckdish, how important is Davis-Bacon in ensuring
3455 that we have both a boost to our economy and fair wages and

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3456 that we really get the job done right?

3457 Ms. Eckdish. Thank you for the question. It is
3458 critically important. It makes sure that as workers are
3459 doing the work to repair our infrastructure that they are
3460 being paid a family-supporting wage. So it is critically
3461 important and there are a number of areas in the LIFT America
3462 Act that include Davis-Bacon in a number of areas where it
3463 could be expanded.

3464 Mr. Soto. And now according to EPA, transportation is
3465 the biggest emitter of CO2 emissions at 29 percent versus 28
3466 percent for electricity, and that is even numbers from 2
3467 years ago. So does this transportation, the aspects of the
3468 transportation package that are in this bill, will that help
3469 then the curve of CO2 emissions in the transportation sector,
3470 particularly electric cars and things of that nature?

3471 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, I think electric vehicles are a key
3472 part of how we bend that curve coupled with investments in
3473 transit, strong fuel economy standards, but EVs will be a key
3474 part of how we tackle emissions from the vehicle sector. And
3475 this bill takes a significant step toward the expansion of
3476 the EV infrastructure and what we --

3477 Mr. Soto. Thank you.

3478 And, Mr. Guith, or Guith -- sorry if I am mispronouncing

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3479 your name. Does the U.S. Chamber believe that the America's
3480 economy is being held back by an aging infrastructure?

3481 Mr. Guith. Absolutely. We have been leading the charge
3482 for the better part of a couple decades and we know that
3483 there is political support there, it is just getting
3484 apparently folks into a room and making it happen, which
3485 seems to be difficult today.

3486 Mr. Soto. Do you think there are any revenue sources
3487 that the business community would be supportive of in our
3488 quest to get an infrastructure package together?

3489 Mr. Guith. We are supportive of wherever it comes from,
3490 more or less. I mean we have proposed increasing the fuel
3491 use fee, but we have said that, look, we are open to other
3492 ideas. In fact, we held a contest very recently to get other
3493 ideas. We don't think that is the only way, in fact we
3494 probably need several ways, but it is certainly one of the
3495 most logical ways given to your point earlier that it hasn't
3496 been touched since 1993 while some 35 states have raised
3497 their own state revenues through fuel use fees. And it is
3498 untapped. The Highway Trust Fund continues to dwindle and
3499 our infrastructure is aging.

3500 Mr. Soto. Thank you.

3501 The Chairman. Did the gentleman yield back?

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3502 Mr. Soto. Oh yes, sorry.

3503 The Chairman. Okay, thank you. Mr. Bucshon is
3504 recognized for 5 minutes.

3505 Mr. Bucshon. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just
3506 want to -- well, I know I am kind of late in the game here
3507 because I am down the dais, but I am going to -- a couple
3508 subjects that I really touched upon and I will just say
3509 briefly, rural Indiana, we need broadband. You can't have
3510 schools. You can't have economic investment.

3511 And I think many people have talked to that. I am not
3512 going to spend much more time on it, but we need broadband
3513 infrastructure in rural Indiana. The U.S. Energy Information
3514 Administration -- yes, there is such an agency -- recently
3515 reported that 32 dams currently that do not generate
3516 electricity are planned to be converted to hydroelectric dams
3517 in the next few years.

3518 And the reason I point that out is because last year,
3519 Congress passed and the President signed the American Water
3520 Infrastructure Act of 2018. And many of you may or may not
3521 know that legislation that I was involved in and senators on
3522 the Senate side were involved in, streamlined the process for
3523 converting non-hydroelectric dams to hydroelectric dams
3524 through FERC.

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3525 It doesn't eliminate any environmental review and this
3526 was bipartisan. Both sides agreed to all of this. But
3527 through FERC there is now a 2-year process when you want to
3528 get approval to convert a non-hydroelectric dam into
3529 hydroelectric power. So if people right now should be
3530 looking at that and I think there is going to be a lot of
3531 investment over the next 5 to 10 years in this particular
3532 process.

3533 As was mentioned, it is a consistent, sustainable clean
3534 energy source that Canada utilizes, our Pacific Northwest
3535 utilizes and, believe it or not, in Southwest Indiana there
3536 are six dams we could convert. And so, I just wanted to
3537 point that out that that is very important. I mean I am an
3538 all-of-the-above energy supporter and I think just like your
3539 personal investment portfolio we should diversify our energy
3540 portfolio and make sure we are not putting all our eggs in
3541 one basket.

3542 With that being said, the legislation before us I don't
3543 see is supporting all-of-the-above energy and that is in the
3544 area, the absence of fossil fuel, energy research
3545 development, and innovation. And that was mentioned, I
3546 think, by Mr. McKinley also. I believe it is critical that
3547 we continue to encourage strong public-private partnerships

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3548 in the on-going advancements of technological innovations in
3549 the fossil fuel energy area on our good today.

3550 And as electrical utilities connect to more intermittent
3551 renewable energy into the electrical system, there is a
3552 growing need for new technologies to ensure reliable and
3553 affordable power and I think the Europeans are experiencing
3554 this most as we speak with untenable energy costs
3555 particularly in Germany.

3556 So, Mr. Guith, can you speak to the role of the on-going
3557 innovation that -- and you may have mentioned this earlier.
3558 But and what is needed to ensure spending decisions don't
3559 lock in practices that impede new innovative technologies,
3560 particularly in the fossil fuel space?

3561 Mr. Guith. Yeah, I think that is a great question,
3562 thank you. Twofold. One, a greater commitment from Congress
3563 to spending on energy debation. As a former DOE employee, I
3564 realize it is an incredible asset to the country, but
3565 unfortunately it has 535 constituents up here and it tries to
3566 be everything to all of them, where we know that there are
3567 specific technologies that every scientific community that
3568 has looked at this are most likely going to be required to
3569 address climate change globally.

3570 And so, we have been working with members of Congress to

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3571 come up with some approaches with DOE to maybe concentrate a
3572 little bit more on those technologies with some specific
3573 metrics and goals and demonstrations to get there. And I
3574 think that is the greatest path forward to developing those -
3575 - that innovation that we need.

3576 Mr. Bucshon. And I will make a quick comment on that
3577 because you realize that we are, what, 20 percent of the
3578 world's CO2 emissions, roughly. China, India, or China is
3579 the biggest. It is unlikely, in my view, that they are going
3580 to convert to clean energy sources as quickly as America has.
3581 Since 2005, we have reduced emissions more than any other
3582 country in the world and it is not really close. We are
3583 going to continue to do that.

3584 So I think in this area of fossil fuel, and some of us
3585 on the panel will disagree, obviously, but in fossil fuel
3586 thinking that the rest of the world may not get to where we
3587 may get with renewables, if we have some innovation that is
3588 transferable to other countries that they could use that we
3589 could make economically feasible for those countries and they
3590 begin to pick that up, I think then we could have a global,
3591 our leadership in that area could have a global impact. That
3592 is my personal view.

3593 Also, expanding a little bit on that, Mr. Guith. When

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3594 the Chamber reviews some of the programs in the bill that
3595 reflect efforts to support the build-out of renewable
3596 infrastructure, do you all look at and monitor what happens
3597 with the electrical rates and what happens when they go up?

3598 Mr. Guith. Yes, most definitely. I mean we look at the
3599 impacts on both the generators as well as the consumers. We
3600 represent both. And, frankly, a hundred percent of the
3601 economy is a consumer, so when rates go down it benefits even
3602 if it doesn't necessarily benefit the upstream generator.
3603 And we analyze it with our members and we consult with them
3604 and try and come up with the best policy and triangulate
3605 where the business community is.

3606 Mr. Bucshon. Yeah, and I would agree with that because
3607 again, if you look at the European experience particularly in
3608 Germany where the costs of energy are -- and I don't have the
3609 graph in front of me -- are roughly 3 times what they are, on
3610 average, in America. As particularly I see it for our
3611 seniors and for our lower-income rural, in areas in my
3612 district that would be rural American. Other peoples'
3613 districts that could be urban America. Honestly, different
3614 locations, very similar problems. I could see the cost
3615 aspect really causing us a lot of trouble if we don't
3616 continue to innovate across the spectrum, and so I am hopeful

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3617 that we can do that.

3618 Again, I would like to point out I am an all-of-the-
3619 above energy person. I think we should innovate and advance
3620 technology all across and that includes fossil fuels.
3621 Because I do think looking at the world and the fossil fuel
3622 use, that is an area potentially if we could, for example,
3623 commercialize carbon capture like we are in Houston, for
3624 example, in the Houston area, and find ways to use the CO2 or
3625 to store the CO2 underground. Worldwide, I just feel like
3626 that could have such a dramatic impact.

3627 And the last thing is also in the area of recycling and
3628 looking at the entire life cycle of renewable energy
3629 particularly in the solar panel space. I am beginning to
3630 look at the entire lifecycle of those panels because 25, 30
3631 years from now we are going to have to figure out what to do
3632 with those. And at this point in America we landfill all of
3633 the end-of-life for that and I think most people know that.

3634 And so, the impact that has on the environment with some
3635 of the heavy metals like lead and other things that are in it
3636 are going to be dramatic if we don't look at how we deal with
3637 the end-of-life solar panels 25 years from now. I yield
3638 back.

3639 The Chairman. Thank you. Next is the gentleman from

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3640 Arizona, Mr. O'Halleran.

3641 Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding
3642 this hearing today to discuss the LIFT America Act and how it
3643 addresses the needs for infrastructure investments that will
3644 move our economy forward. I applaud the LIFT America Act for
3645 including robust funding for high-speed broadband and clean
3646 drinking water programs, pushing our energy sector to more
3647 resiliency, and ensuring our hospitals and healthcare
3648 facilities meet the needs of patients.

3649 Rural America cannot be left behind. In fact, I don't
3650 know that it can survive without getting in this process
3651 moving forward whether it is health care, education, economic
3652 competitiveness, this is a necessary element of the
3653 infrastructure of America for rural America. I hope to see
3654 these investments particularly for broadband deployment
3655 target areas of this country that need it the most.

3656 Ms. Clyburn, I have a question here that I had before,
3657 but you mentioned earlier about a communications issue within
3658 the process. Can you refine that a little bit and tell me
3659 what you mean?

3660 Ms. Clyburn. The communications issue, are you talking
3661 in terms of other state agencies?

3662 Mr. O'Halleran. Agencies, right.

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3663 Ms. Clyburn. Right. What I wanted to point out was
3664 that and it has been said a couple of times that you have
3665 state agencies and the states and federal agencies that are
3666 doing much of the same things. I mean everybody has grand
3667 goals and objectives that we can't argue. The problem is
3668 they are either stepping on each other, not speaking to each
3669 other, or spending money in a lot of the same places.

3670 So you have places that are getting double or triple the
3671 amount of investment that may or may not be needed and then
3672 you have other areas in this country where there is no flow,
3673 there is no provider, there is no investment and again there
3674 is no, you know, next generation opportunities. So fixing
3675 that I think the bill encourages that.

3676 It could be said what could be fine-tuned a little bit
3677 more, but it definitely addresses that and that is the
3678 problem. That is an issue.

3679 Mr. O'Halleran. And I am glad to sponsor the bill, it
3680 is clearly define that. But also, I just can't believe our
3681 federal government at this stage of our existence cannot
3682 understand the need for agencies to communicate with one
3683 another. I don't care across the board whether it is
3684 intelligence or homeland security or these agencies.

3685 Ms. Clyburn. For better or worse, things are pretty

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3686 siloed. They are pretty siloed within certain --

3687 Mr. O'Halleran. Too siloed.

3688 Ms. Clyburn. Yes, thank you.

3689 Mr. O'Halleran. Commissioner, in your testimony that
3690 broadband funding must be targeted to places with the
3691 greatest need to ensure that these communities who have been
3692 completely left behind are connected as completely as
3693 possible.

3694 Ms. Clyburn. Yes, sir.

3695 Mr. O'Halleran. I look forward to introducing a
3696 bipartisan bill that was mentioned earlier that is also in
3697 the Senate on broadband mapping.

3698 Ms. Clyburn. Looking forward to it.

3699 Mr. O'Halleran. I do appreciate the reverse auction and
3700 infrastructure financing funds offered in Title 1 of the LIFT
3701 America Act, but what else should be included in Title 1 to
3702 close the digital divide?

3703 Ms. Clyburn. Hmm. That is a great question. I might
3704 have to include some -- answer you for the record, if you
3705 don't mind. But I think we are moving in the right
3706 direction.

3707 Mr. O'Halleran. With energy infrastructure I have heard
3708 stories from many constituents in my district in lengthy

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3709 permitting reviews required before a project may begin.

3710 While reviews are necessary for environmental protection,

3711 they should also be done in a timely manner for project

3712 certainty.

3713 Mr. Gruith, in your testimony you highlighted the

3714 bipartisan work to establish the Federal Permitting

3715 Improvement Steering Council in the FAST-41 bill. Within the

3716 LIFT America Act, how can permitting for such projects also

3717 be addressed?

3718 Mr. Guith. Not being a parliamentarian, I will have to

3719 defer to you to some extent as far as jurisdictional

3720 distinctions between here and Interior -- I am sorry --

3721 between here and the Natural Resources Committee which has a

3722 lot of the jurisdiction over NEPA itself. But I think if you

3723 look at what happened in FAST-41, Energy and Commerce

3724 certainly had some of it.

3725 And I think the two big asks are to, one, make FAST-41,

3726 the FAST-41 authorizations permit because we are about to run

3727 out of authorization as well as constraining environmental

3728 reviews to 2 years and the one federal decision. I mean

3729 those are all things that benefit every form of

3730 infrastructure and there is significant bipartisan support

3731 for.

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3732 Mr. O'Halleran. Mr. Chairman, thank you. And I yield
3733 the rest of my time.

3734 The Chairman. Thank you. Next is the gentleman from
3735 Florida, Mr. Bilirakis.

3736 Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate
3737 it. This question is for Mr. Guith. Last week a local
3738 article reported 22 sites in Florida were found to have PFAS
3739 contamination including one city in my district. There are
3740 at least 610 places that have PFAS levels in the country, I
3741 understand. However, the term "PFAS" encompasses thousands
3742 of different substances with different threat levels.

3743 Again, Mr. Guith, do we know enough about individual
3744 PFAS chemicals to know which are the most harmful? If so,
3745 should we include a priority system in the legislation based
3746 on the highest risk; if not, does more study need to be done
3747 before allocating limited funds to this cause?

3748 Mr. Guith. The simple answer is no. We know in the
3749 grand scheme of toxics we know very little about this family
3750 of chemicals as far as what their epidemiological impacts
3751 are. We know that they are vexing. They are long-lasting.
3752 A significant portion of the population has PFAS in their
3753 blood system, but as you point out they are not all the same.
3754 And so, we have a process in place or Congress has created a

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3755 process at EPA to review the science of these chemicals and
3756 to ascertain which of them are innocuous and which of them
3757 aren't and that is the stage that we are at right now. But
3758 because they are so pervasive, there is understandably great
3759 concern around the country.

3760 Mr. Bilirakis. Okay, are children at greater risk to
3761 PFAS as far as contamination risk, are they at greater risk?

3762 Mr. Guith. I personally don't know the answer to that
3763 question.

3764 Mr. Bilirakis. Okay. Can we find out?

3765 Mr. Guith. Absolutely, we can follow up with you.

3766 Mr. Bilirakis. I mean can you do some research and get
3767 back to us, follow up? Thank you very much.

3768 All right, the next question again for Mr. Guith. State
3769 regulators have been focused on accelerated replacement of
3770 aging infrastructure. In fact, DOE has an existing
3771 collaborative with the National Association of Regulatory
3772 Utility Commissioners to address this issue. The
3773 collaborative was designed so that DOE could focus on a
3774 demonstration of new technologies for leak detection and
3775 pipeline replacement.

3776 Mr. Guith, how might the grant program proposed in the
3777 LIFT Act impede on states' authority to establish rate

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3778 structures and criteria for the accelerated replacement of
3779 pipelines deemed no longer fit for service?

3780 Mr. Guith. How it might impede, I think in some areas
3781 it might be interpreted to be proscriptive as far as where
3782 the money goes and how the cost recovery comes. But I think
3783 the language could be maybe more direct to ensure that that
3784 overlap does not happen and that rate formation state-by-
3785 state is not impacted.

3786 Mr. Bilirakis. All right. Thank you for that input.
3787 One more question for you, sir. I am glad to see interest in
3788 extending the school and child care program lead testing
3789 grants and the lead drinking fountain replacement programs.
3790 Lead contaminated water in schools is a big issue in my
3791 district and probably all over the country and we need to
3792 make sure that we protect our children.

3793 Last month, a local news outlet reported that 68 percent
3794 of Florida school districts did not fully test for lead in
3795 drinking water. Additionally, a lot of the schools in my
3796 district tested above the federal standard for action.
3797 Again, I want to see more testing because it is so very
3798 important. Can you comment on that, sir?

3799 Mr. Guith. I think within the context of my testimony
3800 and this legislation, I think the most important part to

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3801 accept is that there is a great need for federal funds across
3802 many forms of Safe Drinking Water Act programs. That
3803 includes PFAS which this legislation would create, but also
3804 the existing ones. So that is why I think it is crucial that
3805 we be careful to not cannibalize one for the other and to
3806 just increase the pot across the board, because the demand is
3807 that great.

3808 Mr. Bilirakis. Okay, thank you very much. And I yield
3809 back.

3810 Mr. Lujan. Will the gentleman from Florida yield?

3811 Mr. Bilirakis. Yes. Yes.

3812 Mr. Lujan. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3813 Commissioner Clyburn, this morning I had the honor of
3814 meeting with the mother of Ashlyne Mike, her name is Pam
3815 Foster. Sadly, Ashlyne is an 11-year-old Navajo girl who
3816 was murdered and raped. The importance of Amber Alert
3817 systems across the country, they work if you have broadband
3818 connectivity and coverage.

3819 I appreciate Mr. O'Halleran raising the issue of mapping
3820 as well. The mapping that we have across the country right
3821 now is not accurate with showing where there is coverage,
3822 especially in rural parts of the country. Can you touch on
3823 how you believe the LIFT Act's provisions will help us in

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3824 getting more connectivity so that if someone needs to make
3825 that text message, that phone call, or if someone has a smart
3826 phone on them, we can triangulate and find them?

3827 Ms. Clyburn. One of the things that I am happy to see
3828 is its attention on Next Generation 911. I mentioned earlier
3829 that the current systems are based on 50-year-old technology,
3830 but we are now in an increasingly connected ecosystem. That
3831 unfortunate incident and what is required and expected of us
3832 being interoperable when we use our phone, it doesn't matter
3833 which provider it is, it is interoperable, but our 9-1-1
3834 systems are often not.

3835 So ensuring that whatever road that the roads we
3836 traveled where we did not have connectivity in your beautiful
3837 state we need to take care of that. In case of emergency
3838 there should be no medium that you use -- video, still,
3839 voice, text -- that a 9-1-1 system should not be able to
3840 take. You know, those are the baselines of today and
3841 tomorrow and we cannot continue to rely on a system that is
3842 not interoperable that is not up to date.

3843 Our first responders are doing a yeoman's job, e-9-1-1
3844 works well. We need Next Gen. This takes care of that and I
3845 am happy -- I can't endorse, I don't think, but I am happy to
3846 say that whatever I can do to be a partner in moving this

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3847 along, I will.

3848 Mr. Lujan. Thank you.

3849 The Chairman. All right. The gentleman's time has
3850 expired. The gentleman from California, Mr. Ruiz, is
3851 recognized.

3852 Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to
3853 our panel for being here today. I support the LIFT America
3854 Act which will support critical infrastructure projects
3855 across the country and I am currently researching ways to
3856 make it even better.

3857 This bill would upgrade broadband internet access, shore
3858 up critical 9-1-1 capabilities -- as an emergency medicine
3859 physician that is very important to me -- improving Indian
3860 health service facilities, and help us meet our clean energy
3861 goals for a sustainable future. In addition, this bill
3862 includes robust investment in clean drinking water grant
3863 programs. This will help support projects to improve water
3864 quality in areas like the eastern Coachella Valley in my
3865 district where I grew up. It is a very rural, agricultural-
3866 focused, farm worker community.

3867 Clean and safe drinking water is a common good that
3868 everyone deserves access to. However, a 2017 study by the
3869 Environmental Working Group found that many of the smaller

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3870 rural and lower income areas of the eastern Coachella Valley
3871 had drinking water systems that contained contaminants
3872 including chromium 6, nitrates, and arsenic. The Coachella
3873 Valley Water District and others have tackled this problem
3874 head-on and are in the process of consolidating many of these
3875 old and independent drinking water systems into their
3876 network.

3877 None of this work could have been done without federal
3878 assistance from the State Revolving Fund because that funding
3879 has a set-aside reserve for rural, resource-poor communities.
3880 In a state and district like mine with so much in need, this
3881 set-aside ensures that the communities most in need are able
3882 to access funding.

3883 Mayor Wahler, you talked about how cities have stepped
3884 up infrastructure investment to fill the gaps, but that isn't
3885 possible everywhere. How important is federal funding for
3886 drinking water infrastructure both in your city and in low-
3887 income communities and how have you utilized them?

3888 Mr. Wahler. Well, you are absolutely correct,
3889 Congressman. Not every city or county has been able to do
3890 that. It requires a lot of proper planning, but, you know,
3891 every -- the costs of the install of water lines vary from
3892 different parts of the country.

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3893 I think there needs to be down payment money at the
3894 federal level because a lot of the communities and especially
3895 in the rural areas of this country just don't have the
3896 resources to, quite frankly, run miles and miles and miles of
3897 line, extended period, to serve maybe a small pocket of
3898 people, but you still have to get the transfer to where the
3899 need is and that is going to be a challenging thing even with
3900 this bill. Even if this bill passed we are still going to
3901 have an incredible problem.

3902 Mr. Ruiz. Great, okay. Do you have well water? Well
3903 water?

3904 Mr. Wahler. In our community we have a few homes that
3905 have -- we have had a law on the books since the mid-70s you
3906 have to hook up to public water because we were worried about
3907 contaminants.

3908 Mr. Ruiz. Yeah. Another important section of this bill
3909 provides funding for new solar energy investments in rural,
3910 low-income communities. The cost of solar energy has
3911 plummeted over the past decade, allowing more and more
3912 Americans to reap the benefits of clean energy.

3913 My district has fully embraced the potential of
3914 renewable energy. If you have ever driven on Interstate 10
3915 through Riverside County, you have seen the windmills, the

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3916 wind turbines, the utility scales, solar fields, and the
3917 panels that line the roofs of neighborhoods throughout my
3918 district. And if you haven't, you have probably seen it in a
3919 movie at some point in your life.

3920 But unfortunately, there are still communities that
3921 haven't been able to share in the benefits of solar
3922 technology. And in a region like my congressional district
3923 where the sun shines bright and long for more than 350 days a
3924 year in the Palm Springs, California area, that means there
3925 is a lot of untapped potential. In fact, my district
3926 produces the most renewable energy on federal land than any
3927 other district in the country, but yet many of the residents
3928 cannot access that renewable energy. The legislation we are
3929 considering today, H.R. 2741, the Leading Infrastructure for
3930 Tomorrow's America Act, establishes a program to provide
3931 loans and grants for solar installations in low-income and
3932 resource-poor areas.

3933 Mayor Wahler, in your written testimony you refer to
3934 these provisions as "inclusive and innovative." Can you
3935 explain why the Conference of Mayors has decided to support
3936 the low-income solar grant program and how eligible
3937 communities would benefit?

3938 Mr. Wahler. Well, I think it is safe to say every town

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3939 has dynamics to it both socially and economically. Anywhere
3940 we can help those folks save on their energy bill over the
3941 long term will allow them to stay in their homes.

3942 Mr. Ruiz. So what are some of those barriers?

3943 Mr. Wahler. Well, you know, the truth of the matter is
3944 like when you are installing solar in your community you may
3945 have a roof that you have to replace the shingles before you
3946 install solar because you are not exactly --

3947 Mr. Ruiz. So what can a community do to foster more in-
3948 home use of solar panels?

3949 Mr. Wahler. Well, I think they need to have -- first of
3950 all, I think a lot of people don't have the resources to
3951 actually have a study done on their house or where they live.
3952 And by having an economic grant out there to do that, that
3953 will allow people to realize whether it makes sense or not to
3954 put that on their facility.

3955 Mr. Ruiz. Thank you very much. My time is up. Thank
3956 you very much.

3957 The Chairman. Thank you. Next is Mrs. Brooks,
3958 recognized for 5 minutes.

3959 Mrs. Brooks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to
3960 all of our panelists who have been sitting here now for quite
3961 some time, but you all are very much adding in significant

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3962 ways to this really important discussion.

3963 I want to start with you, Mr. Auerbach, Subtitle E, the
3964 Public Health Infrastructure, we haven't talked about that
3965 very much today, but it creates some new grants at the CDC --
3966 which I actually just recently visited in late April -- to
3967 improve workforce capacity, competency lab systems, as you
3968 talked about, public health information systems,
3969 communications financing.

3970 How do these grants differ as one who has been very
3971 involved in co-leading with Congressman Eshoo on PAHPA, how
3972 do these grants differ from the Public Health Emergency
3973 Preparedness grants that CDC already administers?

3974 Mr. Auerbach. Thank you. And let me start by saying
3975 thank you for your leadership on the PAHPA.

3976 Mrs. Brooks. Well, and thank you. We are pleased it
3977 came back from the Senate and we are very, very hopeful that
3978 we can get it across the finish line in the very near future.

3979 But how does this differ? And then you also said in
3980 your testimony the PAHPA goal remains aspirational. We don't
3981 want to think it is aspirational unless we have health
3982 information technology. So could you please expand on that?

3983 Mr. Auerbach. Sure. Well, the public health
3984 preparedness grants that come from CDC now really focus on

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3985 having the right people, the right plans in place, and the
3986 right training so that health departments can respond in a
3987 variety of different ways. There is also support of course
3988 for some of the disease-specific and response capacity in
3989 laboratories within the states.

3990 But they don't deal with the fundamental infrastructure
3991 issues that are crippling many of the state and local health
3992 departments. Those include the status of the health
3993 departments themselves in terms of having the appropriate
3994 equipment, technology to respond appropriately. So an
3995 example of that is that many of the health departments don't
3996 have the advanced molecular detection capacity, for example,
3997 so that if there is an emergency and there is a rapid need to
3998 test a particular organism to determine whether or not it is
3999 a risk to the public, they are lacking that capacity.

4000 So the funding that would be within the LIFT America Act
4001 would complement the existing grants but provide that kind of
4002 infrastructure that is necessary when you have the skills,
4003 you have the plans, but you don't have the -- the equipment
4004 that you don't have, the facilities that can ensure that
4005 there is rapid response.

4006 Mrs. Brooks. Has that ever been mapped out what our
4007 public health departments need relative to the type of

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4008 infrastructure you are talking about?

4009 I also want to commend The Chairman for including public
4010 health infrastructure because I don't think many people in
4011 our country think about public health as part of the
4012 infrastructure needs, and so I was really pleased to see
4013 that. But has that ever been determined what we need across
4014 the country, public health departments relative to
4015 infrastructure?

4016 Mr. Auerbach. Thank you for asking that. There have
4017 been efforts to attempt to address that to capture that
4018 information. There have been, there is information for
4019 instance that has been developed on laboratory capacity,
4020 information that has been developed on response to certain
4021 types of emergencies like vector-borne illnesses like we saw,
4022 for instance, with Zika.

4023 So some of that information has been captured and there
4024 has been planning efforts to estimate what it would take to
4025 close the gap.

4026 Mrs. Brooks. And excuse me for cutting you off.

4027 Mr. Auerbach. Yes, yes.

4028 Mrs. Brooks. But I want to switch to one other witness.
4029 Can you please get us the information as to where that might
4030 be mapped or where it has been recorded?

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4031 Mr. Auerbach. Certainly, my pleasure.

4032 Mrs. Brooks. Thank you.

4033 Mr. Lyons, a quick question. The state of Indiana has a
4034 program called Next Level Broadband where Governor Holcomb
4035 and the state is going to be providing a hundred million
4036 dollars to deploy broadband to underserved -- un-served, un-
4037 served areas in the state. But how can you speak to how the
4038 bill will complement state programs like my own state's or
4039 maybe other states that might be doing this, how can we
4040 ensure that there isn't that duplication or the guardrails
4041 with this BIFIA program?

4042 How can we make sure that we are not duplicating and
4043 that we are covering the un-served areas?

4044 Mr. Lyons. Yes, so part of the answer may be making
4045 sure that the money that is allocated on the state level goes
4046 to the state utility regulator as usually what is handling
4047 the state level initiatives. There are number of states
4048 across the country that have state level initiatives. I
4049 would envision the state part of this as complementing those.

4050 But you are right, it has to get in the hands of the
4051 same people so you don't have right hand-left hand issues.

4052 Mrs. Brooks. Okay. Ms. Clyburn, do you have any
4053 comments on that?

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4054 Ms. Clyburn. Yes. Again, it is about communications.
4055 We talk about coordination, but it is about communications
4056 and everybody is transparent in terms of where those monies
4057 are flowing so that we are again are not overspending in one
4058 area and just leaving others behind.

4059 Mrs. Brooks. Thank you. And thank you all so much. I
4060 yield back.

4061 The Chairman. Thank you. Ms. Eshoo, recognized for 5
4062 minutes.

4063 Ms. Eshoo. At last. But this has been time spent very
4064 well, I think. I arrived a little after the gavel was
4065 lowered, but I have the advantage of having listened to
4066 everyone on the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this
4067 very important bill. Thank you to all of the witnesses. You
4068 have given us, you have enlightened us and I thank you for
4069 it. Even though I have been here for just about all morning
4070 and now part of the afternoon, I see you looking at the
4071 clock. I know you are hungry. Your stomachs are grumbling.

4072 I am really excited about this bill. I think it should
4073 be called the LIFT UP America Act because that is really what
4074 this is designed to do. The American people understand what
4075 this means. It is jobs, jobs, jobs. It is American jobs.
4076 It is American equipment. It is American everything. And it

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4077 really is meant to lift up our country in the 21st century
4078 and to really take care of the things that have been
4079 neglected that have been put off, whether it is building out
4080 broadband where people -- imagine, there are 21 million
4081 people in our country that don't have it, you know, shame on
4082 us. But we are correcting it and we are putting real money
4083 toward it.

4084 Water systems, the NG 911 -- John Shimkus and I have
4085 been on this like white on rice for more years than I want to
4086 count, but I am excited because we are going to address it.
4087 This is all about our first responders in every single
4088 community in every single congressional district and boy, do
4089 we need that. Our nation's grid -- I could go on and on. I
4090 think, Mr. Chairman, that we need to tighten up the section
4091 in the bill relative to mapping because we have got to get
4092 this thing right and we haven't yet and I want to work with
4093 you on that.

4094 I also want to thank Mr. Auerbach for the work that you
4095 have done in supporting PAHPA. It has been very important.
4096 All of you have given very sophisticated testimony, and while
4097 PAHPA is not in this bill, there are benefits that our
4098 country will accrue from it. And our nation's public health
4099 emergency response infrastructure is taken for granted, but

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4100 it is an essential in our country.

4101 Without this reauthorization, I mean one of the
4102 assistant secretaries said that they can't respond to the
4103 measles crisis that is erupting in our country. So I look
4104 forward to Congress passing this and getting it done. And I
4105 could never have asked for a better partner than Congressman
4106 Susan Brooks. Outstanding.

4107 Mr. Mayor, I want to underscore something. You are here
4108 with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I want to thank you and
4109 all of the mayors of our country for endorsing the
4110 legislation that I am carrying relative to municipalities
4111 being preempted.

4112 Mr. Wahler. Yes.

4113 Ms. Eshoo. I come from local government so I have a
4114 reverence for it. Now last fall the FCC preempted,
4115 essentially ran over all the local municipalities, the local
4116 communities in our country from having a say in deploying
4117 small cell sites, and that is the infrastructure that is
4118 needed for 5G. And now that poor policy has led to nearly a
4119 hundred municipalities, public power utilities, and
4120 associations to sue the FCC. Say something about that to us.

4121 Mr. Wahler. Well, Piscataway is part of the lawsuit.
4122 Let's just face it --

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4123 Ms. Eshoo. And thank you.

4124 Mr. Wahler. The reality is we need to work with the
4125 telecom industry. They are the 21st century railroads. And
4126 unfortunately, as we all know history, when the railroads
4127 were being built they just went along their merry way and do
4128 whatever they want.

4129 Ms. Eshoo. But let me interrupt for a moment, because
4130 one of the witnesses said that this is the way it should go
4131 and it is going to slow them down and it is going to bollocks
4132 everything up as if local municipal -- that is the heartbeat
4133 of America, every city and town in our country.

4134 So respond to what -- I don't know, was it Professor
4135 Lyons? Were you the one that didn't agree? I am not asking
4136 you to comment.

4137 Mr. Lyons. That is right. Yeah.

4138 Ms. Eshoo. Just you can say -- yeah, you are the one.
4139 Okay.

4140 Mr. Wahler. Municipalities, you know, there shouldn't
4141 be reason to preempt our municipal rights-of-way. The
4142 municipal rights-of-way are the most valuable assets that
4143 communities have regardless of the -- other than the people
4144 that live within the community. We maintain the rights-of-
4145 way. There is from what I understand, from what the

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4146 communications folks want to do, is that there is no
4147 guarantee that they are going to repair when they tear the
4148 rights-of-way up.

4149 Ultimately, at the end of the day they are not the ones
4150 that get the calls to city hall about what the heck is going
4151 on in my neighborhood. All I know is that there is a lot of
4152 very upset people, a lot of upset officials around this
4153 country. They have not been equal partners in this.

4154 Ms. Eshoo. Hardly.

4155 Mr. Wahler. And something has got to give and that is
4156 why a lawsuit was filed.

4157 Ms. Eshoo. Well, I want to thank --

4158 The Chairman. The gentlewoman's time --

4159 Ms. Eshoo. -- The Chairman of the full committee again
4160 and thank everyone, and especially for the support you have
4161 given to this effort. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4162 Mr. Wahler. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I have to catch a
4163 train in 15 minutes.

4164 The Chairman. That is all right. You are excused. But
4165 thank you for coming.

4166 Mr. Wahler. I have a ribbon-cutting of a beautiful park
4167 that we used to rebuild the community with block grant money
4168 and we guaranteed all the kids an ice cream truck tonight.

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4169 Ms. Eshoo. Isn't that great?

4170 The Chairman. Thank you, Mayor.

4171 Mr. Wahler. So, Chairman, if you get this bill through
4172 and pass final passage, I will bring the ice cream truck down
4173 here to the committee.

4174 The Chairman. Thank you, Mayor. Safe travels.

4175 Next is Mr. Walberg, recognized for 5 minutes.

4176 Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks to
4177 the whole panel for being here today. I have the privilege
4178 of representing Michigan's energy district. We have
4179 everything in it including biomass and it is all going well.
4180 We all have the challenges with that energy. Title 3
4181 contemplates federal spending in the tens of billions of
4182 dollars in our energy infrastructure.

4183 While some of these investments are needed, I echo the
4184 concerns raised by my friend and colleague from Michigan, Mr.
4185 Upton, about the cost and nature of these programs whether
4186 they are the best way to approach the problem, or whether
4187 they will work the way they are intended given the overlap
4188 amongst many of them.

4189 Mr. Guith, the bill authorizes a federal strategic
4190 transfer reserve. I understand the need to ensure recovery
4191 from major power outages, especially after a cyberattack.

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4192 But it is my understanding that Congress authorized DOE to
4193 conduct a study into the need for such a strategic reserve
4194 and the best approach to ensuring resiliency and
4195 availability, replacements of transformers pursuant to the
4196 FAST Act.

4197 Mr. Chairman, if I could, I would like to enter this
4198 report into the record.

4199 The Chairman. Have we seen it? Have we seen what Mr.
4200 Walberg wants to enter into the record?

4201 Without objection.

4202 [The information follows:]

4203

4204 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

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4205 Mr. Walberg. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4206 I think you should have seen that.

4207 Mr. Guith, in your own testimony you report the
4208 Department of Energy determined that the strategic transfer
4209 reserve would not be necessary and did not recommend the
4210 formation of a federally-owned reserve. If we are to enhance
4211 electricity sector resilience, does it make sense to follow
4212 DOE's statutory required recommendations?

4213 Mr. Guith. Yes. I mean if you look into what the
4214 country has available when it comes to rapid response for
4215 critical situations of power outages, whether it is because
4216 of weather or some other interruption, it is incumbent upon
4217 the nation's utilities to bring those, to have those assets
4218 stockpiled and be able to bring them to bear collectively at
4219 the drop of a hat and that is what DOE determined.

4220 And that is why we would recommend taking the authorized
4221 funds for the transformer reserve program and applying them
4222 to the transformer resilience and advance components program
4223 also in the bill, because that is where the most work can be
4224 done is how to make the transformers themselves more
4225 resilient to extreme conditions.

4226 Mr. Walberg. So probably before moving forward we ought
4227 to make sure that these recommendations are captured. I

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4228 would assume that from your -- thank you.

4229 Mr. Lyons and Commissioner Clyburn, can you please
4230 comment on the provisions of the bill that allows entities
4231 not designated as eligible telecommunications carriers to
4232 receive funding under this bill?

4233 Ms. Clyburn. I think it would promote innovative ideas
4234 and opportunities as long as those companies are well-vetted
4235 and meet the standards. I think it should be an all-
4236 inclusive, all-of-the-above approach so we can get the best
4237 ideas, the best technologies to the market.

4238 Mr. Walberg. Mr. Lyons?

4239 Mr. Lyons. I agree with that. I think the more people
4240 you have bidding in the reverse auctions the better as long
4241 as they can meet the minimum technical standards of what the
4242 auction is requiring.

4243 Mr. Walberg. Okay. Mr. Lyons, do you see the potential
4244 for a bottleneck in deploying this funding when it comes to
4245 skilled professional workforce that can actually use the
4246 funding considered in this bill to actually go out and build
4247 the networks?

4248 Mr. Lyons. I think that is possible. There are
4249 certainly a number of folks particularly in the wireless, the
4250 fixed wireless space who have talked about the need for more

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4251 workers than we can get. When you are talking about
4252 deploying in rural areas where populations are relatively
4253 small, you are going to need to find trained people
4254 somewhere.

4255 Mr. Walberg. That is a challenge these days.

4256 Commissioner Clyburn, is there more the Commission or we
4257 in Congress can help to reduce this problem?

4258 Ms. Clyburn. Yes, coordination, certainty, and focus.
4259 I really think if we keep our eyes on the what the potential
4260 for this, it will -- it sounds like a big price tag, but it
4261 will pay for itself in multiples.

4262 Mr. Walberg. Okay, thank you. I appreciate that. I
4263 yield back.

4264 The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Next is Mr. Engel
4265 is recognized for 5 minutes.

4266 Mr. Engel. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

4267 Mr. Auerbach, I have a few questions I would like to ask
4268 you and I am going to make a statement and I would like you
4269 to comment on it. Community-based hospitals are often the
4270 cornerstone of healthcare systems and many of them operate on
4271 very thin margins -- I know that is true in my district --
4272 and therefore lack the resources to invest in new facilities.

4273 I am pleased to be an original sponsor of the LIFT

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4274 America Act which does include two billion dollars to
4275 modernize hospitals and it marks an important first step, but
4276 considerably more funding obviously is necessary to address
4277 the dire state of our nation's hospitals. So I would like to
4278 ask you if you could please describe the negative effects
4279 that outdated and antiquated hospital facilities can have on
4280 patient care. I mean it is obvious, but I think we should
4281 state it.

4282 Mr. Auerbach. Sure. And thank you very much for this
4283 question. You raise an important point. We are seeing
4284 across the country that a number of our hospitals are
4285 becoming outdated. Their facilities are in some instances
4286 literally crumbling and that that kind of an impact, as well
4287 as the impact of cutting back on services or in some
4288 instances closing, is having a very negative impact on the
4289 provision of healthcare services to the people in those
4290 communities.

4291 It can mean it becomes more difficult to provide high
4292 quality care. It can mean there can be additional expenses
4293 in terms of the provision of those care and it is
4294 particularly a problem for the safety net hospitals, for the
4295 hospitals that serve the lower income residents of the
4296 country.

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4297 So paying attention to the status of the hospitals, the
4298 infrastructure of those hospitals both the buildings
4299 themselves and the technology within those buildings, both
4300 laboratory technology and internet technology is extremely
4301 important in terms of health outcomes and quality of care
4302 overall.

4303 Mr. Engel. Well, thank you very much. I absolutely
4304 agree with you. The second question deals with lead pipes.
4305 And I want to tell you that during the 2016-2017 academic
4306 year, parents of students attending Public School 41, which
4307 is a public elementary school in my district, told me they
4308 were concerned about elevated lead levels in the school's
4309 water fixtures.

4310 And we worked with the city's Department of Education,
4311 New York City; we were able to replace all of the affected
4312 fixtures. It was one of several schools in the city with
4313 lead-made water fixtures and I, really, I am happy that the
4314 city replaced 91 percent of the water fixtures affected. It
4315 has commitment to achieving a hundred percent, but the good
4316 work in New York City is really an exception.

4317 One recent nationwide survey estimates that six million
4318 lead service lines are still in use posing a risk to the
4319 health and well-being of American families. So, Mr.

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4320 Auerbach, let me ask you again, can you please describe the
4321 impacts of lead exposure on children's development and
4322 growth?

4323 Mr. Auerbach. Sure. Well, lead exposure can have a
4324 devastating impact on the health of children. As their
4325 brains are developing rapidly, the impact of lead can cause
4326 developmental delay. It can cause behavioral health
4327 problems. In some instances it results in hospitalization.
4328 If that lead exposure is high enough it can even result in
4329 death. So lead exposure is particularly dangerous and for
4330 children, but it is dangerous for people at any age.

4331 Mr. Engel. Well, thank you. And my third and final
4332 statement which also involves a question talks about the
4333 recent outbreaks of Zika and flu have shown our nation is
4334 woefully unprepared for infectious disease outbreaks, and we
4335 have seen it with measles as well. Much of this can be
4336 attributed to a lack of federal support for public health
4337 infrastructure including disease monitoring systems and
4338 diagnostics laboratories.

4339 I am pleased to see that the LIFT America Act will make
4340 robust investments in this area. So let me ask you again the
4341 question, how will these investments prepare our healthcare
4342 system with the threat posed by antibiotic-resistant

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4343 pathogens, sometimes called superbugs?

4344 Mr. Auerbach. Thank you for asking that question. The
4345 threats associated with antibiotic resistance are very
4346 significant threats and likely to increase over time. We are
4347 seeing more and more instances where they are being detected
4348 in healthcare facilities and at the locations and they pose a
4349 significant risk to the public. Public health can play a
4350 critical role, and the support through the LIFT America Act
4351 provides much of that support to do rapid testing.

4352 Identification of what those bugs are using technology
4353 like advanced nuclear detection allows us to get a precise
4354 understanding of what those pathogens are and makes it easier
4355 for them to be isolated and makes it easier for the people
4356 that have been exposed to them to be treated. So this is a
4357 serious threat and one where this act would help in terms of
4358 both prevention and response.

4359 Mr. Engel. Well, thank you very much. I think it is
4360 important to get these things on the record so people
4361 understand how important this is and how it really affects
4362 everyone. Thank you.

4363 Mr. Auerbach. Thank you. Thank you, Congressman.

4364 Mr. Engel. Yield back, Mr. Chair.

4365 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Engel. Mr. Carter, for 5

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4366 minutes.

4367 Mr. Carter. Thank you. Thank all of you for being
4368 here, we appreciate your indulgence. And I know you are
4369 tired and you are hungry but you are almost there, so hang in
4370 there, okay.

4371 Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor and privilege of
4372 representing the entire coast of Georgia and we of course are
4373 not immune from natural disasters. In fact, we have had two
4374 hurricanes in an 11-month period and as you can imagine, very
4375 devastating to our area.

4376 I wanted to ask, I see a lot of programs and funding
4377 that are included in these bills and Mr. Guith, I will ask
4378 you. They seem to prioritize different uses, but I don't see
4379 them really prioritizing disaster situations. And I was just
4380 wondering how much of this bill really does actually
4381 reinforce resiliency. Is that really included? I mean
4382 surely, we want to mitigate these types of situations. We
4383 know that they are more common now and some would argue that
4384 they are more intense now in these storms. Are we doing
4385 anything in this bill that would help us in that respect?

4386 Mr. Guith. I am not going to pretend to be an expert on
4387 all 200-some pages, but I think there are aspects that
4388 absolutely address reliability and resiliency. We have

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4389 talked about some of them this morning on the transformer
4390 resiliency, some of the monies that would go to DOE to help
4391 develop more resilient transformers.

4392 But also within the scope of the smart grid funding, I
4393 think that could also be considered a reliability function,
4394 because the more automated you have the ability to dispatch
4395 electrons and make real-time differences when you have one
4396 path cut down because of a tree line or because of a
4397 hurricane and the ability to bring new generation online more
4398 quickly and to distribute that, I mean that is one of the
4399 underlying aspects of a smart grid. So I would say that it
4400 does take steps to address reliability and resiliency.

4401 Mr. Carter. Well, I am glad to hear that because I
4402 honestly believe that if we are smarter, if you will, if we
4403 just use a little bit of preparation that we can sustain
4404 these storms a lot better and certainly that would help.

4405 The weatherization Program under the Department of
4406 Energy and it is obviously intended to reduce costs for low-
4407 income individuals in low-income communities of which we have
4408 quite a few in the state of Georgia as well, but are these
4409 updated in any ways to help these people? Because I mean, it
4410 is devastating to anyone who is flooded and it is devastating
4411 to anyone who is impacted by this, but especially for low-

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4412 income. Are you familiar with anything to do with that?

4413 Mr. Guith. The Weatherization Assistance Program is
4414 something that -- it is a program that has been around, I
4415 think, for 3 decades. The reauthorization is incredibly
4416 important not only to the recipients of those grants but also
4417 to the utilities who serve them and provide the
4418 weatherization.

4419 The one mention I make in my testimony is that we would
4420 caution against diverting funds from efficiency improvements,
4421 which is what the Weatherization Assistance Program has been
4422 focused on serving some seven million Americans over its
4423 lifetime, and broadening the definition to include renewable
4424 technology. That is addressed in other parts of the bill
4425 which we have also heard about this morning, specifically
4426 what Mr. Ruiz mentioned related to rural and low-income
4427 solar.

4428 So we would prefer that this stay, that the
4429 Weatherization Assistance Program stay solely within the
4430 bandwidth of increasing efficiency around the envelope of the
4431 residence.

4432 Mr. Carter. Good. Thank you for that.

4433 Professor Lyons, I wanted to ask you. I represent South
4434 Georgia, a lot of rural area in South Georgia and I know one

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4435 of the things that we have talked about is the broadband
4436 build-out. And you seemed to express concerns about the
4437 mapping process and about us making certain that we are
4438 prioritizing places that need to be such as the rural areas.
4439 What would you suggest? I mean what can we do differently
4440 perhaps?

4441 Mr. Lyons. So part of the issue lies with better data
4442 collection at the FCC, right, so the FCC is already in the
4443 process of trying to figure out how to improve their existing
4444 data collection efforts and have started to reach out with,
4445 through public-private partnerships with groups like
4446 USTelecom to figure out better reporting.

4447 I think one thing that may be helpful is as we mentioned
4448 before, and this is something that Commissioner Clyburn
4449 mentioned in her remarks as well, is some form of
4450 crowdsourcing to get third-party information, right. The
4451 information of what services are available where is known by
4452 the American people. It is just a matter of getting it from
4453 the disparate level up to those who are coordinating this and
4454 finding ways to do that may be very useful.

4455 So, for example, I can go at any time on a website
4456 called speedtest.net, right. Anywhere I am as long as I have
4457 a connection it will tell me not only that I have

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4458 connectivity but what the speed is. That type of data is
4459 really valuable if you can get it in the hands of those who
4460 are mapping not only availability but also speed on a
4461 locational basis.

4462 Mr. Carter. Right, right. Well, thank you. And thank
4463 you all again for hanging in there with us. And I yield
4464 back.

4465 The Chairman. Thank you. Mr. Rush, recognized for 5
4466 minutes.

4467 Mr. Rush. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
4468 sheepishly come to the committee room for this hearing
4469 because I have been in the chair when members come in, in the
4470 last minute and enter the hearing and I do know the feeling.
4471 So I feel you, Mr. Chairman. I feel the witnesses also. I
4472 am going to be brief.

4473 But I was at an important meeting of the Congressional
4474 Black Caucus and, Ms. Clyburn, your father came in and gave
4475 us a report on what happened at the White House this morning.
4476 And one thing I just want to say that this hearing is being
4477 conducted with the White House meeting as a backdrop where
4478 the President told the Speaker and the other Democratic
4479 leaders there that they had a choice of either investigations
4480 or infrastructure and then he walked out. So he is putting

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4481 that choice before the American people, want Congress
4482 investigations or infrastructure and he walked out and closed
4483 the door. That was the President.

4484 And so, but I sit here as a proud co-sponsor of the LIFT
4485 America Act and I certainly want to commend my chairman,
4486 Chairman Pallone, for his leadership and his endurance as
4487 well as all of my colleagues for their hard work in bringing
4488 forth this much-needed bill.

4489 With titles on expanding broadband, increasing funding
4490 for clean drinking water, modernizing our electric grid, and
4491 making health care more accessible, this bill will provide
4492 enormous help to my constituents and it goes beyond just the
4493 empty rhetoric and partisan posturing. It makes significant
4494 investments in starting to rebuilding our nation and
4495 combating climate change.

4496 So I am going to begin my questions with you, Ms.
4497 Clyburn. I know this is an issue that you worked on for many
4498 years now as a commissioner. In your opinion, how well does
4499 the LIFT Act, the LIFT America Act help modernize our
4500 telecommunications infrastructure and expand broadband to all
4501 of America, all communities in America?

4502 Ms. Clyburn. One of the great opportunities I had as
4503 serving as an FCC commissioner is being part of the public-

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4504 private partnership agreement that we had with industry. It
4505 brought -- it leveraged limited resources with the resources
4506 of commercial enterprises. What this does is pick up where
4507 that left off, where we were so dependent on industry to by
4508 their business plans even though it was a partnership, this
4509 says here is what has not worked in the past. Here are where
4510 the gaps are. This is where the money is going to.

4511 So it is targeted. It is intentional. And it will
4512 allow us with that \$40 billion to fill in some gaps that we
4513 have been talking about, lamenting about, and acting like we
4514 did not know that money will fix this. It will target it,
4515 you know, direct that to those places. And that is why I
4516 wanted to be here today, because, you know, I thought I was
4517 done with hearings.

4518 Mr. Rush. Understand.

4519 Ms. Eckdish, I come from Chicago and, believe it or not,
4520 we have a crisis for clean water in Chicago and it is really
4521 a crisis in urban areas throughout the nation as we start out
4522 to rebuild the water infrastructure. And how will this bill
4523 help us to solve the problem of access to clean water across
4524 the nation including my city of Chicago?

4525 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you for the question,
4526 Congressman. From aging infrastructure, leaking

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4527 infrastructure to contaminants that we have talked about
4528 today, lead in our water, there is tremendous need and we
4529 know communities across the country are struggling to provide
4530 clean water. This bill will be a significant step in the
4531 right direction in terms of really investing more funds in
4532 our State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water SRF that is
4533 a very proven program and also will create good jobs.

4534 Mr. Rush. And there is a battle and been for decades
4535 now in Chicago among some of the unions and contracting
4536 developers around plastic or lead pipe. Do you have any
4537 position of which one is more conducive to clean water and
4538 clean environment?

4539 Ms. Eckdish. You know, I think that is a really
4540 important question. I would love to follow up for the record
4541 on that one.

4542 Mr. Rush. Thank you so much. I yield back, Mr.
4543 Chairman.

4544 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rush. Mr. Gianforte is
4545 now recognized for 5 minutes.

4546 Mr. Gianforte. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for
4547 the committee for being here. As we look to rebuild and
4548 modernize our infrastructure, addressing the needs of our
4549 rural communities must be a priority from rebuilding roads

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4550 and bridges to maintaining dams and waterways to investing in
4551 reliable access to water.

4552 As the internet continues to transform how we work,
4553 communicate, and connect, delivering dependable broadband to
4554 our rural communities needs to be a top priority. Reliable
4555 access to broadband is a key to opening the doors of greater
4556 opportunity and the American dream to more Americans. The
4557 internet as we know it came to be around 1995. For 20 years
4558 it was open and free. It ushered in innovation and
4559 transformed our economy leading to new high-tech sector and
4560 good paying jobs.

4561 In 1997, my wife Susan and I started a business in our
4562 home in Bozeman, Montana. We had this idea that the internet
4563 might actually make it possible for folks to work from
4564 anywhere, even from Montana. We were right. Our company
4565 grew from a room in our house to one of Montana's largest
4566 employers with 1,100 employees and an average salary of
4567 almost \$90,000 a year, in Montana.

4568 Ours was just one example of how the internet created
4569 more high-paying American jobs, increased opportunity, and
4570 prosperity. While broadband access has taken off
4571 exponentially for some in the last 10 years, our rural
4572 communities remain one of the most difficult to connect. One

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4573 in three Montanans still lack access to broadband. And the
4574 disparity is worse in our rural areas.

4575 To bridge this digital divide, the overall cost of
4576 getting fiber to the last home must come down. Congress
4577 should cut red tape from the permitting process and empower
4578 state and local officials to efficiently deploy broadband in
4579 our rural communities. Last Congress, I worked with
4580 Representative Curtis from Utah to pass the Rural Broadband
4581 Permitting Efficiency Act through the House. This bill
4582 streamlines the deployment of broadband infrastructure in
4583 highway right-of-ways by cutting back on duplicative federal
4584 permitting laws and regulations. These mandated reviews can
4585 cause unneeded and year-long delays in critical projects.
4586 They also discourage providers and states from pursuing
4587 broadband deployment projects especially in rural areas.

4588 Reforming the federal permitting process spans the
4589 ideological spectrum from a conservative like me to the
4590 president and founder of the Progressive Policy Institute. 3
4591 years ago he said, "An accumulation of laws and regulations
4592 largely designed to protect the environment via environmental
4593 impact reviews is bogging down the approval of badly needed
4594 transportation projects and instead causing environmental
4595 damage."

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4596 The fact is, the current permitting regime is an
4597 obstacle to opportunity. There is bipartisan agreement for
4598 permitting reform. As we build an infrastructure package, we
4599 must work together to reform the federal permitting process
4600 to help us make timely and critical investments in our
4601 communities that need them the most.

4602 I want to start with you, Mr. Guith, if I could. Common
4603 sense reforms in right-of-way, the FAST-41 authority, and the
4604 environmental review process can cut down the costs and
4605 timeliness of projects. Are there other practices that we
4606 should be looking at to make the permitting process more
4607 efficient?

4608 Mr. Guith. Besides permanent authorization of FAST-41,
4609 I would say the two most useful tools that Congress can
4610 provide are codifying one federal decision which was in the
4611 executive order from 2 years ago so that there is no question
4612 to a project sponsor who is shepherding or who is responsible
4613 ultimately for their project. Instead of saying, "All right,
4614 federal government, who is working on it now," and you get a
4615 bunch of shoulder shrugs, you know specifically there is one
4616 and one only. And that is also important when there is
4617 discrepancies between two agencies as to who takes the
4618 priority.

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4619 And then the other aspect is limiting the time frame to
4620 2 years. I mean there can always be certain exceptions made,
4621 but the bottom line is that concurrent process through the
4622 entire federal government as well as state and local it
4623 shouldn't take longer than 2 years. It shouldn't take longer
4624 to permit a project than it does to build it.

4625 Mr. Gianforte. Well, I appreciate that and I see my
4626 time is coming to an end. But I just want to say thank you
4627 for being here. We need to continue to work together and,
4628 Mr. Chairman, let's find bipartisan ways to get this
4629 infrastructure built, particularly as it relates to rural
4630 broadband. And I yield back.

4631 The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Oh, Ms. Kuster is
4632 here. Ms. Kuster is recognized for 5 minutes.

4633 Ms. Kuster. Last but not least, you are almost done.
4634 Thank you for your patience and I want to join my colleagues
4635 on both sides of the aisle to talk about rural broadband,
4636 critical issue in my district in New Hampshire. I have made
4637 this comment before, but I think the presidential primary
4638 candidates are going to have the experience, "Can you hear me
4639 now? Can you hear me now?" And I think it may become a
4640 higher priority on their agenda, I hope.

4641 But thank you for your work, Commissioner. We

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4642 appreciate it. And I do want to work with the committee on
4643 the mapping issue. I think Cathy McMorris Rodgers mentioned
4644 a bill and I would like to work in a bipartisan way. That is
4645 a big point for us right now because the maps show that there
4646 is better coverage than there actually is and so we have a
4647 citizen initiative going out and trying to collect the data
4648 for the FCC.

4649 And then the other issue that I make note of is your
4650 point that population is not a good proxy for coverage, that
4651 we should maybe revisit and fix that issue, the allocation
4652 issue around the funding. But I think you have heard today
4653 broad, bipartisan support for improved access and for
4654 education, for job training; it is critically important for
4655 us in terms of the next generation of citizens and workers in
4656 New Hampshire, so I appreciate that. I also appreciate the
4657 issues around clean drinking water in the LIFT Act. I want
4658 to commend the chair for including that.

4659 In New Hampshire we recently passed a state law
4660 requiring that schools test their water and take remediation
4661 efforts if contamination is present. A recent GAO report
4662 indicated 57 percent of American schools do not test their
4663 drinking water for lead, which I think to most parents would
4664 be pretty shocking. And so, I think it is important to

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4665 address that in the LIFT Act, funding for drinking water
4666 programs including schools and child care programs.

4667 So I want to follow up, Ms. Eckdish, from your testimony
4668 highlighting more than half of the schools across the country
4669 were built during the 1970s or before. Can you discuss the
4670 challenges that some of these schools face around lead
4671 contamination and drinking water and how this bill might make
4672 a difference?

4673 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you for that question,
4674 Congresswoman. And again, I think schools are a critical
4675 issue that should be part of the infrastructure conversation.
4676 As we heard from Mr. Auerbach, children are particularly
4677 susceptible to lead, so looking at lead in schools as well as
4678 lead in child care facilities is extremely important moving
4679 forward and should be part of the infrastructure discussion.

4680 I think more broadly there could be opportunities to
4681 look at -- the bill does look at the energy efficiency at
4682 schools. There are opportunities to look more broadly at the
4683 health and safety of these school facilities beyond lead,
4684 asbestos, a number of other challenges that these aging
4685 facilities are facing.

4686 Ms. Kuster. And I also appreciate the provisions around
4687 PFAS. We just had a hearing recently and that has been a big

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4688 issue in my district as well. And I just think, you know, as
4689 a mother, as a member of Congress, I care about the present
4690 and future well-being of our children and I think it is
4691 something that is, you know, critically important, so I
4692 appreciate that.

4693 And then just turning to the significant investment in
4694 moving us toward a clean energy economy, in New Hampshire we
4695 have five towns already, Concord, Keene, Plainfield, Hanover,
4696 and Cornish in my district that have committed to use 100
4697 percent renewable energy by 2030. And I think so many
4698 communities are stepping up on clean energy.

4699 Our housing authority, for example, in Keene, New
4700 Hampshire recently installed solar arrays on a housing
4701 project and it is going to reduce pollution equivalent to
4702 gas-powered driving vehicles a hundred and ninety-two hundred
4703 thousand every single year. So again, Ms. Eckdish, if you
4704 can discuss how the LIFT Act's grant program to support solar
4705 installations could make a difference, and then my time will
4706 be up and you will be done.

4707 Ms. Eckdish. Sure, thank you. So I think again
4708 investing in clean energy is a tremendous need both in terms
4709 of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, if we do it right,
4710 with strong labor and procurement standards we can also

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4711 create good jobs not only in the installation of these solar
4712 panels, wind infrastructure projects, but also in the
4713 manufacturing of the component parts. And I think that is an
4714 important thing to consider as well.

4715 Ms. Kuster. So a bipartisan win-win-win well-delivered,
4716 Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

4717 The Chairman. Thank you. And Mr. Cardenas is
4718 recognized for 5 minutes.

4719 Mr. Cardenas. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
4720 Ranking Member, for having this important hearing. And I
4721 just want to say that I am happy to be talking about
4722 infrastructure today and I am certain the American people are
4723 happy that we are talking about it, but hopefully we can put
4724 that talk into some actions as legislators.

4725 Improving broadband infrastructure to make sure our
4726 students can get their homework to modernizing infrastructure
4727 in transportation to make sure it is smart and energy
4728 efficient to improving our health care, physical
4729 infrastructure and telecommunications systems to fixing our
4730 drinking water infrastructure, this bill takes tremendous
4731 strides towards a future we should have gotten to many, many
4732 years ago. And it is really important for us to realize that
4733 it is our responsibility. It is every generation's

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4734 responsibility.

4735 But I personally believe that the United States of
4736 America that we who are around today, especially decision
4737 makers and adults, we have been resting on the laurels and
4738 the hard work of previous generations who have invested in
4739 infrastructure and we, unfortunately, have been able to take
4740 it for granted. And far too often I think that we do take it
4741 for granted.

4742 In Los Angeles, many need to drive to get to school,
4743 work, to see their families. We are working on reducing
4744 emissions so we can breathe cleaner air in Los Angeles. We
4745 are building out our public transit which will greatly
4746 benefit families in the San Fernando Valley. I am very proud
4747 to see it in our school districts.

4748 In Los Angeles, we embarked on an over \$30 billion
4749 infrastructure to build again an example of an infrastructure
4750 that we had foregone for decades, for generations, and now we
4751 have one of the most modern school systems in the country
4752 when it comes to the infrastructure thereof. Nearly 25
4753 million children ride over 500,000 predominately diesel buses
4754 to school in the U.S. every single day which contributes to
4755 air pollution and, importantly, it also exposes our most
4756 vulnerable population to that air pollution. That is why I

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4757 have introduced the Clean Commute for Kids Act which would
4758 provide funding to replace/retrofit school bus fleets with
4759 cleaner energy sources like electricity or natural gas. I
4760 want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for including this bill in
4761 the LIFT America Act.

4762 I have a question. My first question is for Mayor
4763 Wahler and Ms. Eckdish. Can you talk about what converting
4764 or retrofitting a school bus fleet to cleaner energy sources
4765 like electricity can be for reducing emissions?

4766 Ms. Eckdish. Sure. Thank you for the question. We are
4767 talking about obviously emissions reductions. We are talking
4768 about air pollution benefits, so public health benefits as
4769 well. And if we do it right, and we are also looking at
4770 procuring those vehicles domestically, we are also looking at
4771 job creation benefits in the community as well.

4772 Mr. Cardenas. Okay, anybody else? Okay, so I guess we
4773 agree it is good for everyone. And I think it is important
4774 for us to understand that we must keep, in my mind, the
4775 common denominator is our most vulnerable, seniors and
4776 children. Seniors and children. Seniors and children,
4777 because, fortunately or unfortunately, many of us take things
4778 for granted and we don't feel or understand how dire these
4779 changes are and how they need to be made like yesterday.

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4780 I believe that the Clean Commute for Kids Act will
4781 reduce emissions in communities, reduce the exposure of our
4782 children to carbon emissions and particulate matter that has
4783 been shown to cause health issues like asthma, which will
4784 expose children to clean energy sources and get them excited
4785 about renewables. And again, this is an example for
4786 children. What we have seen when we were growing up we
4787 should not take it for granted that that is modern and clean
4788 and good for the next generation.

4789 As we convert to cleaner, renewable sources we need to
4790 address the issue of energy storage. The current landscape
4791 of storage includes grid scale, pump storage, hydropower and
4792 smaller lithium-ion batteries. But I understand that several
4793 new grid scale technologies are either in laboratories or
4794 pilot phase. Now the great additional benefit we will have
4795 from solving this problem is that we will be creating new,
4796 green jobs for Americans at the same time.

4797 Ms. Eckdish, any perspectives on that?

4798 Ms. Eckdish. Yes, thank you. I completely agree we
4799 should be investing broadly and leading in these new clean
4800 technologies.

4801 Mr. Cardenas. So how are we doing in the laboratory
4802 from your perspective? I mean do we have some of these

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4803 things coming to fruition soon hopefully? I mean is the
4804 investment being made as far as you are aware?

4805 Ms. Eckdish. I think we need to significantly increase
4806 our investments across these low carbon technologies. I
4807 think we have made significant strides in a number of them
4808 but there is significant much more work to be done.

4809 Mr. Cardenas. Okay. And also I would just like to
4810 acknowledge and thank Commissioner Clyburn for all of your
4811 expertise and the efforts that you have constantly given not
4812 only to this committee but the members of Congress from your
4813 perspective and your public service. So thank you.

4814 Ms. Clyburn. Thank you, sir.

4815 Mr. Cardenas. I yield back. Thank you.

4816 The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. And last but not
4817 least, we have Mr. Butterfield, recognized for 5 minutes.

4818 Mr. Butterfield. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
4819 realize the hour is late and I will try to get through this
4820 much quicker than in 5 minutes. But thank you to the
4821 witnesses and thank you for hanging in there for the last few
4822 hours. It has been a long day.

4823 You know, Mr. Chairman, we have been talking about
4824 infrastructure ever since I have been in Congress, but it
4825 seems that in the last couple of years we have really gotten

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4826 serious about a serious and big and bold investment in
4827 infrastructure. And the good thing about it, it seems that
4828 it is becoming a bipartisan conversation here on the Hill and
4829 so I am real excited about it.

4830 When our leadership went to the White House a few weeks
4831 ago, I guess it was 3 weeks ago, to discuss it with the
4832 President, we initially put \$1.2 trillion on the table as a
4833 beginning point and then I understand the conversation
4834 mushroomed into 1.5 trillion and the President himself
4835 offered 2 trillion. And so that was a good opening.

4836 Our leadership went back to the White House this morning
4837 and continued the conversation to try to find ways to pay for
4838 a \$2 trillion infrastructure investment, but unfortunately
4839 the President upon hearing some news reports that he disliked
4840 about our Democratic Caucus meeting this morning, literally
4841 walked out of the meeting and ended the conversations and
4842 said that until there is a discontinuation of the
4843 investigations then there will be no conversation at all with
4844 him about infrastructure.

4845 And I don't know if the five of you know that. You have
4846 been at the table all day long. I don't know if you have
4847 seen the breaking news, but the President literally walked
4848 out of the meeting today and said that he would not continue

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4849 the conversation. And so that is very unfortunate, but I am
4850 prepared to vote for any infrastructure package that we have
4851 an opportunity to vote on.

4852 Mr. Chairman, one thing that I have been concerned about
4853 over the years is a proper definition of infrastructure.
4854 When I think of infrastructure I think of electric grid. I
4855 think of water systems, contaminated water, sewer systems,
4856 brownfields, bridges, ports, highways, high-speed rail,
4857 airports, transportation hubs, rural broadband, broadband,
4858 clean energy, pipeline safety, schools, hospitals, public
4859 health and recreation, and the list just goes on and on.

4860 Now I know that a trillion dollars is a lot of money,
4861 Mr. Chairman, but if you try to pay for all of these projects
4862 in a big way, a trillion dollars will not be sufficient to
4863 fund all of these different projects. So that is why I want
4864 to call on us to really get serious about defining what
4865 infrastructure really is and so let me just begin with Ms.
4866 Clyburn.

4867 In your written testimony you discussed the importance
4868 of educational institutions and their essential role in
4869 training and educating the next generation of our nation's
4870 workforce. And I am pleased that the LIFT America Act would
4871 help connect these institutions at a huge speed. With that

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4872 in mind, for more than a hundred years, HBCUs -- and you and
4873 I have great love and affection for HBCUs. They have always
4874 been at the forefront of education for African Americans.
4875 Sadly, many HBCUs are plagued with issues like outdated
4876 technological infrastructure and equipment, limited access to
4877 digital and wireless technology, and limited funds for new
4878 faculty and academic programs.

4879 Earlier this year, I introduced the Building Resources
4880 into Digital Growth and Education Act, I call it the BRIDGE
4881 Act, to address these problems. This legislation will
4882 establish a digital network technology program that awards
4883 grants to HBCUs and other institutions to acquire equipment
4884 and network capability and personnel and other resources.

4885 I guess my question is with the last 1 minute that I
4886 have, why in your opinion is the LIFT America Act support for
4887 anchor institutions and their efforts to develop the
4888 country's workforce so important?

4889 Ms. Clyburn. Our schools no matter what level, our
4890 libraries no matter where they are, how big or small, they
4891 are life-changing, game-changing ecosystems. They meet us
4892 where we are at any age and they have a unique ability to
4893 bring us through technology, through all types of learning to
4894 take us to our next level. They are the best places, I

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4895 believe, to guide us, particularly the digitally and
4896 technologically challenged, to guide us to the next level.

4897 And HBCUs, in particular, I think, are uniquely situated
4898 to uplift themselves and the communities at the same time. I
4899 was in North Carolina earlier this year talking just about
4900 that on Johnson C. Smith campus, so people are quietly
4901 talking about this, but this would be the impetus to move
4902 that to the next level.

4903 Mr. Butterfield. Thank you. I needed that in the
4904 record. Thank you very much. I yield back, Mr. Chairman,
4905 yes.

4906 The Chairman. Thank you. I think we have come to the
4907 end here. You have been here for over 4 hours. Let me just
4908 say a couple of things to follow up on what Mr. Butterfield
4909 and others have said, you know, in terms of where we are
4910 going. You know, obviously this is our first hearing and we
4911 did have a hearing on the LIFT America Act.

4912 But as I have said to my colleagues on both sides of the
4913 aisle, you know, we will continue to entertain, you know,
4914 different legislation that other members have put forward.
4915 This is not the end-all, you know, just the LIFT America Act.
4916 We could obviously incorporate, you know, other legislation
4917 that members have submitted or will submit on both sides of

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4918 the aisle. Same for funding, you know, members and ideas
4919 about funding will continue as well.

4920 And I know that this meeting occurred today where the
4921 President walked out, but hopefully he will reconsider and
4922 hopefully we will continue to, you know, have more summits at
4923 the White House because this is an important bill. And I
4924 think that an infrastructure bill can be done on a bipartisan
4925 basis, so I am going to be optimistic today. So let me just
4926 thank our witnesses for participating for over 4 hours.

4927 I will just remind members that pursuant to committee
4928 rules they have 10 business days to submit additional
4929 questions for the record to be answered by the witnesses who
4930 have appeared. And of course, I would ask each witness to
4931 respond promptly to any such questions that you might
4932 receive.

4933 I do have to enter into the record, this is going to
4934 take a couple of minutes here. I request unanimous consent
4935 to enter the following letters/testimony into the record, and
4936 that includes a letter from the American Wind Energy
4937 Association; a letter from the National Electrical
4938 Manufacturers Association; a letter from U.S. Green Building
4939 Council; a letter from Congresswoman Cheri Bustos; a letter
4940 from the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; a letter

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4941 from the Diesel Technology Forum; letters from the National
4942 Association of Convenience Stores; National Association of
4943 Truck Stop Operators; the Petroleum Marketers Association of
4944 America and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of
4945 America; a letter from the American Public Health
4946 Association; a letter from the Health Care Information and
4947 Management Systems Society; a letter from the Association of
4948 Public Health Laboratories; the Council of State and
4949 Territorial Epidemiologists; the Health Care Information and
4950 Management Systems Society and the National Association for
4951 Public Health Statistics and Information Systems; a report
4952 from the Department of Energy on the Strategic Transformer
4953 Reserve dated March of 2017; a letter from the Satellite
4954 Industry Association; a letter from USTelecom - The Broadband
4955 Association; a letter from the American Fuel and
4956 Petrochemical Manufacturers; and a letter from the MQ
4957 Foundation. And, without objection --

4958 Mr. Shimkus. Reserve the right to object.

4959 The Chairman. You are objecting?

4960 Mr. Shimkus. But I don't object.

4961 The Chairman. Oh, okay. That sounds good.

4962 Mr. Shimkus. I just wanted to let you know I was here.

4963 The Chairman. All right, I love you.

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4964 Without objection, so ordered.

4965 [The information follows:]

4966

4967 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

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4968 The Chairman. And unless you have some additional
4969 comments? No? Okay, the committee is officially adjourned.
4970 [Whereupon, at 2:21 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]