

**House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Member Day Hearing  
Thursday, July 25, 2019**

Testimony of Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49)

Thank you, Chairman Pallone, for the opportunity to testify today. Some of the top priorities that I hear about from my constituents in Southern California are issues that come before this committee, so I am grateful for the opportunity to raise their voices here today.

One of those priorities that I hear about from my constituents is the need to move the spent nuclear fuel at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to a site that is not surrounded by millions of people, threatened by sea level rise, and located near active earthquake faults. It is critical that the federal government establish consolidated interim storage, or CIS, facilities for this waste and other spent nuclear fuel across the country. I strongly endorse Congresswoman Matsui's STORE Nuclear Fuel Act, which would authorize the Department of Energy to take title to spent nuclear fuel in order to store it at a CIS facility. I have also introduced common sense legislation that would prioritize sites like San Onofre that are in locations with high population density and high seismic risk. My constituents are concerned for their safety, and it is long past time that we start moving this waste to a safer location. I urge the committee to prioritize this pressing issue.

Another issue that I hear about from my constituents is the climate crisis, and our need to take aggressive action that is commensurate with the scale of the challenge we face. The science is clear: climate change will have increasingly devastating effects on our planet if we do not make significant changes to the way we live. I am grateful to Chairman Pallone and Congressman Tonko for your leadership on this crisis, and I look forward to working with you on this issue. I am proud to have introduced legislation that presents an ambitious plan for transitioning auto sales in the United States to zero-emission vehicles. We must position the United States to lead the world in clean vehicle innovation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act of 2019. I stand ready to work with anyone who is serious about combating the climate crisis on either side of the aisle, and I look forward to supporting climate legislation that this committee considers.

Lastly, I hear from constituents often about the need to lower health care costs and expand access to affordable care that covers people with pre-existing conditions. Nobody I talk to supports this Administration's efforts in the courts to destroy the Affordable Care Act and rip insurance from millions of families. Thank you to Chairs Pallone and Eshoo for working to defend the Affordable Care Act and lower drug prices. I believe that as we defend the ACA, we must also work together to improve our health care system to achieve universal coverage.

We must also do more to address the substance abuse crisis plaguing our country, and that must include measures to address problems with the addiction treatment and recovery system. Many facilities do amazing work, but there are outliers that do not. It is abhorrent that some treatment centers and recovery housing operators engage in bad practices at the expense of vulnerable patients and residents. This includes deceptive marketing techniques, depriving individuals of

needed medication, failing to monitor those who are suicidal or in withdrawal, and evicting vulnerable residents out on the street. I hope this committee will join me in closely monitoring the development of recovery housing guidelines at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration to ensure a robust framework. Additionally, as the committee considers legislation regarding substance abuse disorder, I hope that it will consider ways we can assist states in their enforcement efforts with an eye towards stronger oversight and accountability so that those in need actually receive the help they deserve and are not taken advantage of.

I appreciate the amazing work of this committee in tackling a wide range of issues, and I thank all of my colleagues for their dedication to addressing the challenges I've highlighted today.