

Opening Statement of Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Committee on Energy and Commerce
“LIFT America Act Hearing”
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As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning.

I'll start by reminding everyone of what life was like before the pandemic. Our economy was booming. It was the hottest job market in half a century.

After a decade of people asking, “where are the jobs?...”... Wages were rising, more jobs were available than people looking for work, and women drove the labor force comeback.

More people—including a record number of people with disabilities—were coming off the sidelines. This was because we lifted the regulatory burden.

Despite Speaker Pelosi’s best efforts to protect the status quo, Republicans delivered on our promises. As a result, there was optimism again in America.

Today, we should be leading to replicate this success. The hardworking people of this country are anxious for those days to return, to reopen, get back to work, and provide for their families

Which brings me to the progressive wish list before us today. It’s the complete opposite of what we know will deliver results. It’s more regulations and mandates, and less freedom to innovate and create jobs.

The LIFT Act was first introduced in 2017 with a price tag of \$85 billion. Today, it’s a whopping \$300 billion for the government to regulate the cars we drive and how we heat our homes and businesses.

This is not the American way. It’s another example of how Speaker Pelosi wants to take us back to the dark ages.

The LIFT Act will hurt our energy security, affordability, and reliability. It establishes a multi-billion dollar slush fund for the Green New Deal to subsidize the Left’s mission to nationalize California’s downfall.

It fails to include solutions Republicans are focused on to Secure Cleaner American Energy. To unleash private investment and remove regulatory barriers for new energy infrastructure in natural gas pipelines, nuclear licensing, and clean, renewable hydropower.

On broadband infrastructure, I'll leave it to Former FCC Commissioner Michael O'Reilly to explain how the Majority is preparing to waste billions without actually closing the digital divide and even setting rural America back even further.

Overall, I hope we can have an honest debate on what this bill is about. It forces a new regulatory regime and higher costs on Americans who have already struggled for survival in the **worst economic crisis** we've seen in our lifetime.

For their sake, to quote 'build back better,' we should be lifting the regulatory burden. If the Majority is sincere in wanting to turn this partisan bill bipartisan, we stand ready to engage in good faith.

Energy and Commerce Republicans have already introduced several packages of bills to do just that, securing our clean energy future and boosting broadband connectivity.

That's how we ensure our economy booms again.

Thank you.