

CONGRESSMAN JOE NEGUSE
HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS DAY TESTIMONY

July 13, 2021

Thank you Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rogers for the opportunity to testify today about some of my priorities within the Energy and Commerce committee jurisdiction.

ALLY'S ACT

I would like to start by talking about *Ally's Act*. Ally, a young constituent from my district, wrote to my office in 2019 to let us know about issues she was facing getting her insurance company to cover her hearing devices. Despite the medical necessity of osseointegrated devices (OIDs) for people who experience different forms of hearing loss than can be helped with a traditional hearing aid, like the bone anchored hearing aid (BAHA) device that Ally uses, private insurance companies consistently deny coverage of OIDs.

I introduced Ally's Act to ensure access to these critical hearing devices, alongside the co-chairs of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, and I am proud to have garnered bipartisan support for this bill including several members of this committee. We must ensure access to these critical hearing devices so that individuals all around the country can receive the life-changing support these devices can provide. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your committee to move this legislation through your committee.

DISASTER SAFE POWER GRID ACT

I would also like to talk about the *Disaster Safe Power Grid Act*, a bicameral bill I introduced along with Rep. Schrader, in order to strengthen our energy grid and reduce the risk of power outages caused by wildfires. We have all seen the devastating impacts of climate change in our communities and the disastrous wildfires that raged through the West the past couple of years. With the extreme

drought and heat conditions currently taking place across the West, this year's fire season has the potential to be another devastating one.

This bill would establish a matching grant program for power companies to reduce the risk of disaster-caused outages or power lines causing wildfires, emphasizing methods to harden our electric grid and reduce wildfire risk. Our power grid needs significant investments in order to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, and I look forward to continuing to work with your committee to enact this legislation.

CLOSING

In closing, thank you Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rogers for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues and many more.

Thank you, and I yield back.