

Jeff Duncan (SC-03) Opening Remarks
Full Committee Markup
March 9, 2023
As prepared for delivery

Thank you all for being here today, I am excited to be here at our first full Committee markup to take up a set of bills we moved out of the Energy, Climate, and Grid Reliability Subcommittee just last week. These bills will help increase American energy production and restore energy leadership.

The United States has incredible energy potential. We have vast reserves of oil, natural gas, and other critical minerals essential for energy dominance. Only a few years ago, we achieved energy independence, which benefits our economic and national security. This was achieved through American innovation, domestic energy production, and investment from the private sector in developing our critical energy infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the radical energy agenda imposed by the Biden Administration the last couple of years has disincentivized private sector investment in our energy infrastructure by implementing top-down government regulation on the energy sector. This has led to decreased energy production and energy infrastructure development.

In fact, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), in 2022 the least amount of interstate natural gas pipeline capacity was added since it began tracking that in 1995. This is a direct consequence of the Biden Administration's anti-energy policies.

Energy is foundational to our economic and national security. High energy prices hurt all Americans, especially those that are low-income and middle-class. Energy exports and increased production bring down costs and are a strategic tool we can use to strengthen our domestic industries, improve our national security, and aid our allies.

Under this Administration, we quickly went from being energy dominant, to a self-inflicted energy crisis—we are facing energy scarcity, record high-gas prices, high electricity prices, and a less reliable grid. The Biden Administration's energy policy for working Americans is "pay more, get less."

My state of South Carolina has seen its population grow in recent years because it has been a haven for manufacturing. We worry if we can maintain this reputation over the next several years solely due to the inability to build out essential energy infrastructure.

We have an abundance of natural gas in the Northeast and Appalachia, but unfortunately, under the current regulatory structure, it only takes one state to block access to this safe and reliable energy source that will ensure continued growth and prosperity in my state.

Unfortunately, this issue is not unique to South Carolina. Republicans have solutions to reassert our energy dominance and lower prices. I am grateful we have an opportunity today to take up this set of bills seeking to achieve this goal. I also want to note these bills went entirely through regular order.

We had a full committee hearing in January to inform us of the state of American energy, as well as a field hearing in Midland, Texas. The subcommittee also held a legislative hearing the first week of February to hear expert testimony on how to improve the bills, and we held a subcommittee markup of these bills last week. Now, we are in the final step of regular order at this full committee markup.

All the energy and environment bills today seek to unleash American energy, lower energy prices, and strengthen our supply chains. The bills will...

- Protect American energy production from federal bans;
- Work to ease energy infrastructure permitting from pipelines to cross-border infrastructure;
- Ensure the importance of American energy exports around the world;
- Assess our critical energy resources supply chains – which are key to wind, solar, batteries and EV technologies;
- Explore ways to expand U.S. refining capacity; and
- Condemn the actions of the Biden Administration in the cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Our goal is to pass legislation that enables the production of cheaper, cleaner, more reliable American energy. Everyone benefits from having access to our abundant domestic resources.

These bills will help us achieve just that, while also securing our supply chains and creating good-paying American jobs. These bills will restore our energy leadership to the benefit of American families, businesses and our allies.

We all agree that affordable, reliable, sustainable, and resilient energy is essential for all Americans. It's time to work towards that goal by increasing American energy production and restoring energy leadership. I urge all my colleagues to support the bills in front of us today so we can achieve this goal.

I now recognize Ranking Member DeGette.