

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BILL JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
MANUFACTURING, AND CRITICAL MATERIALS
MARCH 9, 2023
FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP
*As prepared for delivery***

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Last week, the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials favorably forwarded seven bills to the full committee for consideration -- each of these bills will be marked up by our full committee today.

These bills are part of an effort to end the outsourcing of our short and long-term energy security needs to foreign countries, particularly those that do not like us and actively leverage their resources against the United States and its allies.

Before critics claim these bills would harm the environment, I'd ask them to consider:

- Is the goal to lower emissions or to eliminate specific types of energy sources?
 - Does outsourcing mining and manufacturing activities for green technology to countries with poor environmental and labor standards improve the environment?
- Can America have reliable, available, and affordable energy if we don't have the energy resources to make that a reality...and will we do anything to solve that issue?

We have learned over the last few years that we need to do something more than just throw money at a problem.

Today, we will do just that.

For instance, Representative Carter's bill addresses permitting for refining and processing of critical energy resources. Right now, there is **NO** refining of critical minerals in the United States.

Representative Curtis's legislation addresses innovation in cleaner energy systems, technology, and sources that are currently languishing on the desks of bureaucrats at the EPA.

On the issue of national security, Rep. Pence's legislation gives the EPA explicit authority, in a limited manner, to address energy and national security needs. This legislation is patterned after the Federal Power Act and is in line with 22 other waiver authorities in the Clean Air Act.

Mr. Crenshaw's bill tackles the practical and economic problems posed by an EPA regulation on gasoline refining that could intentionally destroy our domestic refining capacity and increase prices at the pump.

For rationalizing U.S. energy spending and policy, legislation we are considering will clarify the use of EPA's existing flexible permit program for critical energy resources, ends the natural gas tax, and addresses the Democrats' "Big Green" slush fund that was jammed through the last reconciliation package.

Madame Chair, I'll clarify that this isn't all that needs to be done in these areas – or others – to better unleash American energy, reinvigorate innovation in energy technologies, and bolster our domestic supply chains.

I look forward to reporting these bills to the House floor and working with members on both sides to address these challenges going forward.

I yield back whatever remaining time I have.