

Chair Jeff Duncan
Opening Statement—Committee on Energy and Commerce
Full Committee Markup
March 20, 2024
As prepared for delivery

Thank you for recognizing me, Chair Rodgers.

Six of the bills we are marking up today will continue our work in delivering affordable and reliable energy to Americans.

We will be taking up my bill, H.R. 7655, “The Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Accountability Act of 2024.”

We also will call up a series of bills to stop the Biden administration’s war on Americans’ homes through aggressive and unlawful appliance standards.

The United States has more than 3.4 million miles of pipelines. To meet this country’s growing energy demands, we must modernize and expand our pipeline infrastructure.

This is exactly what H.R. 7655 does—it would reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) pipeline safety program for five years and update policies to construct and operate pipelines.

It would reduce energy prices for Americans, strengthen the safety of pipelines and LNG facilities, increase energy reliability, and encourage innovation and investment in new technologies.

This legislation is a product of the Committee process. We held a legislative hearing on its discussion draft where we heard from both PHMSA Deputy Administrator, Tristan Brown, as well as a stakeholder panel representing those responsible for delivering liquid fuels safely and reliably to millions of Americans.

Based on their testimonies, we incorporated additional provisions to the bill, many of which were include in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s bill.

This Committee has also heard testimony from energy reliability experts, Grid Operators, state public utility commissioners, and FERC Commissioners that the lack of pipeline capacity in this country is contributing to reliability issues.

My bill responds to these warnings by incorporating policies focused on pipeline expansion as well as safety.

The Energy and Commerce Committee plays a critical role in reauthorizing PHMSA and I hope all my colleagues will support this legislation.

Another avenue by which the Biden administration has threatened affordability for Americans is through its aggressive and overreaching energy efficiency mandates.

This administration is using efficiency and appliance standards to pursue climate objectives over consumer choice.

They started last year by trying to ban gas stoves and they are now working to impose mandates on every appliance in your home.

The bills we are considering today will prohibit the Secretary of Energy from imposing new efficiency mandates or enforcing existing standards for **washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators/freezers, and room air conditioners** unless the standards are:

- 1) Cost effective and technologically feasible;
- 2) Save the consumers money; and
- 3) Save a significant amount of energy.

I hope my Democrat colleagues will join us in supporting efficiency standards that save money and energy for all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support these measures and I yield back.