

**House Committee on Energy and Commerce
119th Full Committee Organizational Meeting
January 15, 2025
Chairman Brett Guthrie's Opening Statement**

Good morning, and welcome to the first meeting of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce of the 119th Congress.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce is the oldest standing legislative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and is vested with the broadest jurisdiction of any congressional authorizing committee.

With this expansive authority and distinguished history comes a significant responsibility. What happens in the People's House impacts Americans in their homes, and the American people are counting on us to tackle the most pressing issues, delivering results that improve their lives.

Together, this Committee will hit the ground running, playing a pivotal role in restoring the American Dream by unleashing American energy, lowering the cost of health care, and ensuring that America remains the world leader in technological innovation.

As we look ahead to the new Congress, maintaining affordable and reliable energy will be key to America's success, supporting both our economic and national security.

Unfortunately, over the past four years, the Biden-Harris administration has saddled the American people with higher

energy prices, but I am excited about changes we can make with a new administration.

We must also take steps to protect our critical energy infrastructure. It's time to fortify our national security by strengthening the reliability of our electric grid.

The past four years saw the implementation of a rulemaking agenda that has put energy production in jeopardy while raising prices for American families.

Energy and Commerce Republicans will offer solutions to address these issues and strengthen our grid by preserving existing baseload power including natural gas, nuclear, coal, and hydropower.

American leadership must extend into the development and deployment of emerging technologies. By removing burdensome regulations and encouraging innovation, we will make sure that our economy can outcompete the Chinese Communist Party. Our leadership in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and wireless technologies will create jobs and unlock a generation of growth and prosperity.

And we need to make sure that every American has access to that success.

Unfortunately, the Biden-Harris Administration failed on its promise to connect all Americans by bogging down the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program with

unnecessary red tape that prevented even a single American from being connected despite a 42-billion-dollar price tag.

We're prepared to put the country on a new course where we close the digital divide and make sure everyone can enjoy the exciting technological developments that have only just begun.

With broad health jurisdiction, this Committee will continue focusing on driving down the cost of care, providing price transparency to consumers and businesses, supporting innovation, and most importantly, working to help restore public trust in public health.

We'll closely examine the Medicare & Medicaid programs to ensure they are working efficiently and better serving the individuals they were originally designed to assist.

Finally, we'll work to address the opioid epidemic, advancing policies to help individuals avoid fentanyl poisoning while also giving hope to families and individuals struggling with substance use disorder.

While the task before us is significant, the Committee will champion a bold vision to deliver the change demanded by the American people.

From healthcare and energy to telecommunications and consumer protection policy, I look forward to working together to ensure we successfully advance solutions to our nation's greatest challenges.

It is an honor to serve as Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and I am confident that, through our collective efforts, we will lead the way to restoring the American Dream.

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NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

I now have the privilege of introducing our 10 new members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

First, we have Congressman Cliff Bentz from Oregon's 2nd District. Congressman Bentz is a third generation Oregonian, raised on his family's cattle ranches in Harney County. As an attorney, he specialized in ranch reorganizations and water law and was a Member of the Oregon State Senate.

Next is Congresswoman Erin Houchin from Indiana's 9th District. Congresswoman Houchin was a Hoosier small business owner operating a public relations company focused on helping law enforcement communicate the good work they do. In addition to her private sector work, she served as a Member of the Indiana State Senate for nearly a decade and has held several leadership positions in her community.

Congressman Russell Fry from South Carolina's 7th District. Congressman Fry is a true example of the American Dream. He put himself through his undergraduate education at the

University of South Carolina and law school at the Charleston School of Law. Congressman Fry is no stranger to public service as he served South Carolina as a Member of the State's House of Representatives. As an Eagle Scout, Congressman Fry shares the sentiment that "you should leave your campsite better than you found it."

Congresswoman Laurel Lee joins us from Florida's 15th District. Congresswoman Lee is a wife, mother, and daughter of a two-star general in the United States Air Force. Laurel grew up in a military family, born at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Congresswoman Lee and has been a lifelong public servant, including being the 30th Secretary of State of the Great State of Florida and a Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.

Next is Congressman Nick Langworthy from New York's 23rd District. Congressman Langworthy has a deep background rooted in public service and represents the communities in New York where he was raised and worked his entire life. His deep-seated belief in the values of hard work is driven by his upbringing working in his family's restaurant business.

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. joins us from New Jersey's 7th District. From a young age, Congressman Kean has understood and recognized the importance of civic engagement. As a former staffer and Member of the New Jersey General Assembly, Tom has been dedicated to serving his community.

In addition to his professional duties in Washington, DC, he was the vice president of a fire department where he volunteered as a firefighter and an emergency medical technician.

Next is Congressman Michael Rulli from Ohio's 6th District. Over 100 years ago, Congressman Rulli's grandfather and great-uncle founded Rulli Brothers Market, which he and his brother ran together before he came to Congress. He is extremely passionate about our nation's future, previously serving as a Member of the Ohio Senate, representing the 33rd district.

Congressman Gabe Evans is from Colorado's 8th District. Congressman Evans served his country in the U.S. Army and Colorado Army National Guard as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot and company commander, completing a combat deployment to the Middle East. Thank you for your service, Gabe.

Congressman Craig Goldman is from the 12th District of Texas. Congressman Goldman is a fifth-generation Texan and fourth-generation Fort Worth native. Before entering public office, Craig spent nearly a decade working alongside his father at their family-run business in Fort Worth and served in the Texas State House, representing the 97th district.

Last, but not least, welcome Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak from North Dakota. Congresswoman Fedorchak is a fourth generation North Dakotan and brings a wealth of experience previously serving on the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

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