

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Energy Ranking Member Kathy Castor

Markup of 13 Bills, Full Committee

June 25, 2025

Over the past few years, America has enjoyed an energy manufacturing boom – creating 400,000 new jobs in nuclear, geothermal, batteries, solar, wind, and vehicles. We were starting to reshore critical supply chains in communities all across the country, thanks to the historic clean energy and climate resilience law that Democrats passed in 2022.

In just six months, President Trump and Congressional Republicans have managed to sabotage that progress. In their Big Ugly Bill, House Republicans voted to throw 794 clean electricity projects off a cliff – which will cause 1.6 million Americans to lose their jobs and sideline over \$500 billion in private investment. Companies are responding to this uncertainty – over \$5 billion worth of clean energy projects were cancelled in the first five months of 2025.

U.S. electricity demand is forecast to increase 128 GW in the next four years. But the Republican Big Ugly Bill will decrease new electricity capacity additions by 302 GW by 2035 - enough to power 227 million homes. Wholesale electricity prices will spike by 50%. So, if Republicans have their way, we will not build the energy to power US leadership in artificial intelligence or advanced manufacturing – and those sectors will move abroad to our competitors like China.

Republicans are promoting a false choice – that only expensive, dirty energy sources like coal and natural gas can make the United States competitive in AI. As witnesses have repeatedly told our Energy Subcommittee, that's just not true. It's cheaper to build new renewables than keep existing coal plants running in the U.S. Clean energy sources are the only way to add power to the grid quick enough to meet demand.

The Administration has also taken a chainsaw to longstanding bipartisan programs like Energy Star and LIHEAP that save consumers money. And House Republicans' refusal to stand up against high tariffs and President Trump's chaos makes all our energy more expensive. This week, the Eastern U.S. is facing a record-breaking extreme heat wave – driven by climate change. It's straining our electric grid and making thermal power plants like gas less efficient. The Republicans' Big Ugly Bill will make it even harder for working families to deal with this heat - increasing average household energy costs by up to \$400 per year.

Today's bills will make things worse, and the GOP will own the energy price shocks and higher costs in months and years ahead. And who will benefit while consumers are paying more? Oil, gas and coal corporations and their lobbyists.

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Nothing in today's package of bills sufficiently meets the urgency of this moment. My Republican colleagues have no new ideas about how to build a 21st century power grid.

This Committee should lead on common-sense policies, like upgrading our electric grid or modernizing our interconnection process to deliver more affordable energy to our neighbors back home. When my Republican colleagues get serious, I remain ready to work with them on these issues.

I yield back..