

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Environment Ranking Member Paul Tonko**

*Markup of 13 Bills, Full Committee*

**June 25, 2025**

Mr. Chair, I sincerely believe you want to figure out how Congress can support a modernized, reliable, and affordable electricity system during this time of growing demand. According to ICF, demand could grow 25% by 2030, and residential prices could rise 15-40% over the next five years.

This is a monumental task, which will become even more difficult if Republicans' reconciliation bill successfully repeals energy tax credits that incentivize deploying new, cost competitive generation to bring more electrons onto the grid as quickly as possible. Mr. Chair, I also believe you think U.S. AI leadership is a national security and economic imperative.

And a lot of members on this side of the aisle agree with you on both accounts. But the approach that has been taken by the Committee thus far, in my opinion, is all wrong. At the Subcommittee's markup of these bills, multiple Democratic members, myself included, express an interest and willingness to sit down and try to work together on bipartisan solutions that will actually respond to the challenges facing our electricity system.

Instead, the majority is continuing to push partisan bills that will likely go nowhere in the Senate. I understand that this is easier than doing the hard work of bipartisan legislating, but it will not lead to durable policies that rapidly put on electrons on the grid while protecting ratepayers.

And in fact, reaching consensus on potential bipartisan solutions will become harder if we see a continued commitment to partisan policies with the primary goal of keeping uncompetitive, favored generators running. Again, I want to urge the majority to reconsider its strategy and state my openness to working together on legislation that will support expanding the grid, especially our transmission infrastructure, in ways that have been called for by many experts' testimony before this Committee.

Thank you. I yield back.