

Energy & Commerce Committee Member Day
Representative Glenn Grothman Written Testimony
December 12th, 2025

- Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on several issues that are critically important to Wisconsin's economy and to the nation's broader goals of regulatory certainty, scientific integrity, public safety, and economic growth.
- I will focus my remarks on two key issues before the Committee.
- First, the urgent need to address ozone nonattainment challenges in southeastern Wisconsin.
- And second, the importance of advancing my legislation, the *No IRIS Act*.

Wisconsin's Ozone Nonattainment Challenge

- For years, manufacturers, employers, and local communities in southeast Wisconsin have struggled under the weight of federal ozone nonattainment designations.
- While Wisconsin continues to work toward meeting the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone, our region's ability to achieve compliance is uniquely hampered by factors outside the state's control.

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- Much of the ozone measured in southeastern Wisconsin comes from pollution transported from Illinois and Indiana as well as from mobile sources.
- Under the current regulatory framework, local actions alone cannot bring Wisconsin into attainment.
- This situation is exactly why the Clean Air Act includes the **Good Neighbor Provision**, which requires upwind states to take responsibility for emissions that significantly contribute to downwind nonattainment.
- Unfortunately, the current implementation of this provision has not adequately addressed the real-world impact of transported pollution on Wisconsin's air quality.
- As a result, Wisconsin communities continue to face stricter regulatory burdens for pollution they did not create.
- Earlier this year, EPA moved to reclassify several Wisconsin counties, including many in my district, from Moderate to Serious nonattainment.
- This reclassification would significantly lower permitting thresholds and impose new requirements on manufacturers and employers who are already working in good faith to comply.
- These stricter standards would have imposed substantial new costs, restricted business expansion, and jeopardized economic development in my state.

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- Fortunately, on September 5, 2025, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay of EPA's action, preventing these requirements from taking effect while litigation proceeds.
- This situation approach, one that recognizes transported pollution and ensures that states like underscore the need for a more workable federal Wisconsin are not penalized for emissions they do not generate.
- I appreciate this Committee's continued attention to ozone transport issues and encourage bipartisan collaboration to strengthen the regulatory framework so it reflects scientific realities and supports, rather than hinders, local economic growth.

The No IRIS Act

- In addition to addressing non-attainment challenges, I want to highlight my legislation, H.R. 1415, the *No IRIS Act*.
- For decades, EPA has relied on the Integrated Risk Information System, known as IRIS, to develop chemical hazard assessments even though the program has never been authorized by Congress.
- IRIS has faced longstanding criticism for its lack of transparency, inadequate reliance on peer reviewed science, and flawed methodologies. Recent regulatory actions have relied on IRIS derived values that many experts consider scientifically unsound.

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- One example is EPA's assessment of ethylene oxide, which set exposure thresholds tens of thousands of times lower than the naturally occurring levels present in the human body.
- These types of flawed assessments have real-world consequences.
- They disrupt supply chains, undermine domestic manufacturing, discourage investment, and impede innovation across a wide range of industries.
- The *No IRIS Act* simply ensures that EPA cannot use IRIS assessments to propose, finalize, or implement regulatory actions unless Congress formally authorizes the program.
- The bill currently has twenty cosponsors, including five members of the Environment Subcommittee, which has direct jurisdiction over the legislation.
- Additionally, the *No IRIS Act* has earned the support of more than 80 national and state organizations, reflecting broad consensus across industry, agriculture, manufacturing, and scientific stakeholders that reform is urgently needed.
- This level of support reflects both the seriousness of the problem and the widespread agreement that regulatory decision making must be grounded in transparent, reliable, and scientifically sound processes.

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Conclusion

- Wisconsin manufacturers and families depend on a regulatory environment grounded in sound science, fairness, and accountability.
- Ensuring that ozone nonattainment designations accurately reflect the realities of transported pollution, and that states are not punished for emissions beyond their control, is essential to protecting jobs, supporting economic growth, and maintaining regulatory credibility.
- Likewise, strengthening the integrity of EPA's decision making by advancing the No IRIS Act is critical to restoring trust in our federal regulatory system and ensuring that future regulations are based on transparent and reliable science.
- I appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention to these important issues, and I look forward to working with you to develop environmental policies that safeguard public health while promoting economic opportunity, scientific rigor, and regulatory consistency.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome your questions.