

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Full Committee Mark-up of 11 Bills
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 10:15 AM ET**

Good morning,

Welcome to the first full committee mark-up of 2026. In 2025, the House passed 62 E&C bills. 17 of those bills were signed into law. We held over 60 hearings and markups and spent over 80 hours marking up legislation. That's a remarkable accomplishment and I want to thank all the members on this Committee for your hard work.

We are going to continue that work in 2026. Today, we are considering 11 pieces of legislation that will provide permitting reform under the Clean Air Act, support American energy dominance, and improve public safety communications.

35 years have passed since the Clean Air Act was meaningfully updated and outdated provisions are creating a permitting gridlock that must be addressed.

When it comes to the Clean Air Act, we are considering a range of bills that would ensure that states and local communities are not penalized for air emissions that come from

outside of the U.S.; modernize the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards; reduce permitting gridlock; and facilitate state implementation of Clean Air Act permitting. Unfortunately, the current program threatens nearly \$200 billion in economic activity and puts over a million jobs at risk.

Further, we'll consider legislation to ensure that states are not penalized for wildfire mitigation measures, like prescribed burns and brush clearing;

- To streamline the New Source Review permitting process;
- To provides alternate pathways for critical mineral manufacturing and advanced manufacturing facilities to meet permitting requirements;
- And to eliminate duplicative reviews that currently lead to increased delays and expenses in NEPA review. To ensure the availability of reliable and affordable power, we will examine legislation to extend hydropower licensing for projects across the country, and we will consider several bipartisan public safety communications bills to improve the emergency alert system, including

Lulu's Law to codify the option of using emergency alerts in instances of shark attacks.

I appreciate all of the work our sponsors have done to advance these bills and bring them to this markup.

I urge my colleagues to support each of these bills and yield back.

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