

Chairman Robert E. Latta
Opening Statement
Full Committee Markup of Health, Energy, and Environment Legislation
July 20, 2026, 5:00PM ET

Thank you, Chairman for holding this full committee markup, which includes seven bills we have advanced through our energy subcommittee.

The legislation under consideration today continues our work to ensure energy affordability for families and energy resources to power next generation industries like AI and domestic manufacturing.

Several of the bills will help modernize our grid and deploy critical technologies onto the system that can lower costs for households and fuel economic growth.

The Advanced Transmission to Reduce Rates Act, AI for the Grid Act, and High Capacity Grid Act will help usher in a grid built for the 21st Century.

Alongside these efforts, the Load Forecasting Enhancement Act and Ratepayer Protection Act will ensure more effective planning practices and long-term certainty for necessary investments—and appropriate state regulatory practices that protect residential ratepayers from the costs caused by new, large data centers.

Also under consideration is H.R. 9338, the Pipeline Safety Authorization Act, which reauthorizes PHMSA's pipeline safety program for 5 years.

This streamlined bill will enable PHMSA to refocus on safety as its essential mission while making common sense changes to ensure PHMSA can regulate efficiently, while maintaining and improving safety.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute to this bill reflects several months of bipartisan work, and I am pleased this Committee was able to work across the aisle and come to a bipartisan solution to ensure the safe development and oversight of our pipeline infrastructure.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the Ranking Member from Florida's 14th Congressional District for her continued willingness to work with us on other legislation regarding the power sector.

I continue to commit to working in good faith to identify an agreeable approach to address her policy proposals.

The legislation we will consider take important steps to protect ratepayers, improve planning, and build the grid capacity we need for the future. I urge my colleagues to support the bills we have under consideration today and yield back.