

July 21, 2015

Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS04)
Statement for the Record
Energy and Power Subcommittee Markup

H.R. ____, “To modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America’s energy security and diplomacy, promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes.”

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this subcommittee markup on the Architecture of Abundance draft text. I’m heartened to see our committee advancing the ball on so many important issues to both Kansans and the American people. While this legislation addresses a number of important policy provisions there are a couple important issues I would like to bring to the committee’s attention.

Energy Policy and Conversation Act DOE Energy Efficiency Setting Process

As you know from past hearings and questions I have posed to witnesses before the committee, I support reforming the way the Department of Energy conducts its energy efficiency setting process under the Energy Policy and Conversation Act. Much of the process was developed over twenty years ago, and it is time we take a look at updating the process for determining appliance efficiency standards, as it is currently outdated and overly bureaucratic.

As we seek to enhance our energy security at home, it is equally important to develop federal processes that are transparent and fair to our industries. This is why as we move forward to full Committee, I plan to offer amendments on these much needed updates to EPCA, so that when we determine efficiency standards, we are not plagued by inefficiency. I appreciate the future consideration by members of this Committee and I hope that you view these changes as being as urgent and necessary as I do.

Proposed DOE Natural Gas Furnace Mandate

I am very concerned about Department of Energy’s proposed mandate that all natural gas furnaces in homes be ninety-two percent efficient. Many homes today have an eighty percent efficient natural gas furnace that vents through their chimney. If you want to install a ninety-two percent efficient furnace you must add a bunch of new pipes for venting. It is complicated and can be expensive.

First, if you live in a multifamily home or a row house you may be out of luck. Many buildings like that cannot accommodate these new venting requirements. Second, it’s expensive. These more efficient furnaces cost about fifteen hundred dollars and the installation costs could be up to twenty-two hundred dollars. How many of our constituents have an extra four thousand dollars to spend if their furnace needs to be replaced?

It is critical that the Department of Energy consider the full implications its rules will have on ALL Americans. I am pleased that the stakeholders have come to an agreement on legislative text. Hopefully, this legislation will allow them to continue to negotiate and come up with a solution that addresses this burden that the American people will have to endure if the rule isn’t fixed.