

**Statement for the Record of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Markup of Energy Legislation  
February 10, 2016**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today we will consider twelve bills, many of which have bipartisan support and all of which advance the ball on commonsense energy policy. Many deal with streamlining the red tape holding back the expanded energy infrastructure needed to deal with America's growing energy supply. These infrastructure projects are major job creators in themselves, but perhaps more importantly the affordable domestic energy they will deliver to manufacturers and other businesses will result in even more jobs and keep America globally competitive. They will ensure that the heat and the lights stay on in America's homes, and that our energy bills are as low as possible.

Whether it is extending the licenses for 5 new hydropower projects, or making approvals of natural gas pipelines a little bit easier, the benefits of increased domestic energy production and delivery is something we all should be able to agree upon.

I would also like to say a few words about the BRICK Act, which addresses manufacturing, because it touches on an issue of importance to Michigan and other manufacturing states. On a number of occasions, EPA has enacted regulations imposing deadlines so strict that regulated entities must undertake costly compliance measures before federal courts have had a chance to weigh in. This happened recently with the Utility MACT rule, which was remanded by the Supreme Court in the case of Michigan v. EPA.

Unfortunately, by the time that decision was handed down, many regulated power plants had already initiated costly compliance measures, including plans to shut down some facilities. The BRICK Act prevents the same thing from happening to the brickmaking industry by suspending EPA's new Brick MACT deadlines until after judicial review is complete. As a matter of fairness, regulated manufacturers and energy producers shouldn't have to undertake costly compliance steps - and possibly layoffs - over an EPA rule that has not yet passed judicial scrutiny. This is especially true of the brick industry, which is comprised mostly of small businesses that can ill-afford expensive compliance measures that may prove to be unnecessary.

Other bills addressed today deal with everything from clarifying a DOE efficiency standard to avoid unintended damage to new technologies, expanding the opportunities to challenge electric rate increases, and ensuring that the alternative energy plants that remove dangerous coal refuse from the environment are not forced to shut down.

All 12 bills are a plus for jobs, for domestic energy security, and for consumers, and I urge my colleagues to say yes to energy and support all of them.

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