

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Pete Olson**  
**Subcommittee on Energy**  
**Hearing on “Discussion Draft, Energy Star Reform Act of 2017 and H.R.**  
**2477, Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act”**  
**November 7, 2017**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

When the Trump administration proposed to zero out the Energy Star program earlier this year, it got people talking. Many manufacturers said Energy Star is worth saving, but that there is room for improvement.

This discussion draft offers several possible reforms.

It would make DOE the lead agency for Energy Star, while giving them the power to bring EPA in. Today, each administration can choose whether EPA or DOE runs the show. This is an energy program, which is why some want DOE in the driver’s seat.

The draft also has liability protections like what’s in a bill by my friends Rep. Latta and Welch. Energy Star has its own penalties for those who break the rules—we don’t need to get *more* lawyers involved on top of that. And I say that as someone with a UT Law degree on my wall.

The draft also creates more chances for industry input in the program, among other things. I look forward to hearing thoughts about any and all sections.

One other point. Last Friday, our Democratic colleagues sent a letter asking to delay this hearing because they wanted a government panel. I’m told that staff tried but couldn’t get the right witnesses. I think we need a few more live bodies confirmed by our friends in the Senate.

BUT, both EPA and DOE have submitted statements and will respond to any questions for the record they get. We will remind them that they need to be prompt with the answers.

At this point I would like to yield my time to Mr. Latta who has been a leader on these issues for years.