

Statement of the Honorable Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Energy Markup
H.R. 5174, H.R. 5175, H.R. 5239, H.R. 5240, and H.R. 4606
April 18, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

This morning the subcommittee will consider five bipartisan bills that reflect two key themes in our DOE modernization effort: ensuring DOE has the tools it needs to execute its core energy security mission, and reorienting DOE's approach towards domestic energy infrastructure to capitalize on our nation's energy abundance.

The potential for cyberattacks by foreign nations and other actors against our nation's business and energy systems highlights one of the significant and growing threats to the reliable supply of energy in the United States.

When you consider the rapid deployment of digital technology, the interconnected nature of our oil and gas and electricity systems, and the role of electricity across all sectors of our domestic economy, DOE's responsibilities for ensuring the reliable delivery of energy is much more complicated than the fuel supply disruptions of the late 1970s.

We've heard from Secretary Perry and the FERC Commissioners that we can, and should, do more to combat cyber-threats to our nation's energy infrastructure.

Four of the bills we will consider today take practical steps to ensure DOE can more effectively carry out its emergency and security activities in the energy sector and ensure the continued safe and reliable flow of energy across the United States.

H.R. 5174, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, by Mr. Walberg and Ranking Member Rush, elevates the leadership of DOE's emergency

response and cybersecurity operations to the assistant secretary level—which reflects the importance of this mission across the department and in interagency coordination.

H.R. 5175, the Pipeline and LNG Facility Cybersecurity Preparedness Act, by Chairman Upton and Mr. Loeb sack, establishes DOE’s leadership in coordinating the government and energy sector’s approach to cyber and physical security of pipelines.

H.R. 5239, the Cyber Sense Act, by Chairman Latta and Mr. McNerney, establishes a voluntary program to help utilities and other stakeholders identify and promote cyber-secure products for use in the bulk power grid and industrial control systems.

And H.R. 5240, the Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnership Act, also introduced by Mr. McNerney and Mr. Latta, would help bring DOE’s technical know-how through public-private partnerships to help improve the cybersecurity of electric utilities, especially those utilities that have fewer resources due to their size or region of the country.

Finally, turning to energy abundance, we’re also considering H.R. 4606, Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act, introduced by Mr. Johnson. This bipartisan bill would codify a proposed DOE regulation to encourage small shipments of LNG to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, putting small-scale LNG exports on a level playing field with pipeline exports to Canada and Mexico.

Taken together, these bills represent important energy security and energy infrastructure reforms that will better position DOE to serve the nation’s interests going forward. I commend our members for working on this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support these measures.