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6 INVESTING IN AMERICA'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE:

7 IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CREATING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

8 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

9 House of Representatives

10 Subcommittee on Energy

11 Committee on Energy and Commerce

12 Washington, D.C.

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16 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:03 a.m., in  
17 Room 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bobby L. Rush  
18 [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

19 Members present: Representatives Rush, Peters, Sarbanes,  
20 McNerney, Tonko, Loeb sack, Schrader, Kennedy, Veasey, Kuster,  
21 Kelly, Barragan, O'Halleran, Blunt Rochester, Pallone (ex  
22 officio), Upton, Latta, Rodgers, McKinley, Griffith, Johnson,  
23 Bucshon, Flores, Hudson, Walberg, Duncan, and Walden (ex  
24 officio).

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25           Staff present: Adam Fischer, Policy Analyst; Rick Kessler,  
26           Senior Advisor and Staff Directory, Energy and Environment;  
27           Brendan Larkin, Policy Coordinator; John Marshall, Policy  
28           Coordinator; Elisabeth Olson, FERC Detailee; Tuley Wright, Energy  
29           and Environment Policy Advisor; Mary Martin, Minority Chief  
30           Counsel, Energy & Environment & Climate Change; Brandon Mooney,  
31           Minority Deputy Chief Counsel, Energy; Brannon Rains, Minority  
32           Staff Assistant; and Peter Spencer, Minority Senior Professional  
33           Staff Member, Environment & Climate Change.

34 Mr. Rush. The committee hearing is called to order. And  
35 I recognize myself for five minutes for an opening statement.

36 I want to welcome everyone to today's hearing entitled  
37 "Investing in America's Energy Infrastructure: Improving Energy  
38 Efficiency and Creating a Diverse Workforce."

39 This hearing will focus on a series of bills designed to  
40 make Americans' homes, businesses, and energy infrastructure more  
41 efficient and cost-effective, while also investing in a diverse  
42 workforce to build, operate, and manage this infrastructure.

43 Unfortunately, our colleagues, our colleague Mr. Welch had  
44 to return to his home state of Vermont and will miss today's  
45 hearing. But as we all know, he has been a strong supporter of  
46 the HOMES Act and Smart Building Acceleration Act, and he sends  
47 his regrets in not being able to speak today on those two important  
48 measures.

49 Most of today's bills enjoy bipartisan support. And I would  
50 like to thank Ranking Member Upton for working with my office  
51 in cosponsoring H.R. 2114, the Enhancing State Energy Security  
52 Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act. This bill would provide  
53 much-needed assistance to State Energy Offices to plan for and  
54 respond to energy disruptions from both physical and cyber  
55 threats. And I look forward to moving it forward.

56 While I support each of the bills before us, I want to  
57 concentrate my remarks on H.R. 1315, the Blue to Green Collar  
58 Jobs Act, which continues to be one of my top priorities.

59 H.R. 1315 is in essence a jobs bill designed to train

60 underserved groups, including women, minorities, veterans,  
61 unemployed energy workers, and returning citizens, among others,  
62 for the energy jobs and energy careers in the present and the  
63 future.

64 Today marks the second hearing on this important bill,  
65 providing an opportunity to hear directly from DOE, as my  
66 Republican colleagues have repeatedly requested. It is my hope  
67 that following this hearing the minority side will finally accept  
68 my repeated offer to work with my office on this bill as we move  
69 it through this legislative process.

70 Despite their refusal to work with me following the first  
71 hearing on this bill, my office has made several changes to the  
72 bill to strengthen it and to make it much more inclusive.

73 In addition to opening up the grant program for training  
74 in nuclear energy and carbon testing and storage, we have also  
75 clarified that grants and assistance would be made available to  
76 labor unions and qualified youth and conservation corps.

77 We strengthened the reporting requirements and  
78 accountability measures for evaluating performance and impact,  
79 while also streamlining the definition for under represented  
80 groups through the bill, and adding language to prevent the  
81 duplication of programs at DOE.

82 Relying on the technical assistance comments that we  
83 received from DOE from both the current and previous  
84 administrations, I am confident that the program established in  
85 H.R. 1315 will go a long way in producing actual results, in the

86 form of jobs filled, rather than the ceaseless and nonsensical  
87 talk and planning that has too often been the norm.

88 It is my hope that following today's hearing my Republican  
89 colleagues will finally agree to discuss actual substance with  
90 my office so we can move this much-needed bill forward.

91 I look forward to hearing from today's panel of DOE officials  
92 on all of the bills before us here today. And I would like to  
93 call now on my good friend and colleague from my neighboring state  
94 of Michigan, Ranking Member Upton, for his opening statement.

95 Mr. Upton. Well, thank you, my friend and chairman, for  
96 holding this hearing on eight Department of Energy workforce and  
97 efficiency bills. I am pleased to see that our bill from the  
98 last Congress is included, H.R. 2144, the Enhancing State Energy  
99 Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act.

100 You and I worked together on that bill. And it passed the  
101 House by a voice vote. Somehow we have to get it through the  
102 Senate. I look forward to seeing this bill get across the finish  
103 line in this Congress.

104 As you know from our oversight work, our energy  
105 infrastructure is comprised of a vast network of energy and  
106 electricity delivery systems. These intricate and highly  
107 interdependent systems enable almost every aspect of our daily  
108 life. The nation's economy, security, and the health and safety  
109 of its citizens depends upon the reliable and uninterrupted  
110 delivery of fuels and electricity, which is why it is so important  
111 to stay on top of maintenance and modernization.

112           And at the same time, we have to also remain vigilant when  
113 it comes to energy security planning and emergency preparedness.

114           Since the inception of the Department of Energy's State  
115 Energy Program in 1975, the manner in which energy and power is  
116 generated, transmitted and delivered continues to rapidly change  
117 and evolve. Recent hurricanes, fires, and cyber-related events  
118 have raised real concerns about the security and resiliency of  
119 the nation's energy and electricity systems. And states have  
120 emphasized the need to prioritize energy security, energy  
121 planning, and energy infrastructure protection.

122           H.R. 2144 will indeed modernize and reauthorize DOE's State  
123 Energy Program through 2025. It is a good bill that will help  
124 states with the tools to plan and prepare for energy security  
125 emergencies. I would encourage all of my colleagues to support  
126 it.

127           We also have a couple over bipartisan bills from the last  
128 Congress: H.R. 2019, the Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act;  
129 H.R. 2044, the Smart Building Acceleration Act. These bills will  
130 help save energy in public buildings and encourage the adoption  
131 of innovative technologies to conserve water in communities  
132 across the country. These are good bipartisan bills. I look  
133 forward to receiving input from DOE to further perfect them.

134           Unfortunately, we have not had enough time to review some  
135 of the other bills before us today because they were introduced  
136 just this week, and we haven't had the opportunity for background  
137 hearings for understanding them. I am also troubled by the fact

138 that the majority has not seemed to take an interest in our offer  
139 to make good the Workforce Bill bipartisan. As we have said,  
140 we should return to the original version that was agreed upon.

141 I believe that we can improve the bill and it can pass again  
142 with unanimous consent if it were simply all of the above, and  
143 inclusive of every under represented group, including women and  
144 veterans.

145 Mr. Chairman, I know that we can return to regular order  
146 so that members have the opportunity to make informed judgments  
147 about the need for legislation and the effect of these bills.

148 I want to thank our two witnesses, Assistant Secretary  
149 Simmons and Dr. Campos, for appearing before us today so that  
150 we can learn about DOE's efforts on efficiency and workforce  
151 development, and determine whether additional legislative  
152 authorities are necessary. Given the price tag of these new bills  
153 and the tens of billions of dollars, we owe it to the taxpayers  
154 and the consumers to take our time to determine whether the  
155 spending is justified.

156 I promise to keep an open mind. And as I have said before,  
157 we are ready to get to work if all of us are serious about the  
158 effort.

159 I yield back.

160 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back.

161 The chair now recognizes Mr. Pallone, the chairman of the  
162 full committee, for five minutes for his opening statement.

163 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

164 Today we are here to discuss legislation that invests in  
165 making our nation's infrastructure more energy efficient. This  
166 important investment will create good-paying jobs, save consumers  
167 money, and help us combat climate change by reducing carbon  
168 pollution.

169 Countries across the globe are investing in energy  
170 efficiency, and it is making a difference. According to the  
171 International Energy Agency, the world would have used 12 percent  
172 more energy in 2016 had it not been for efficiency gains achieved  
173 since 2000. And that is comparable to adding another European  
174 Union to the global energy market.

175 A critical piece of infrastructure includes making homes,  
176 buildings, cities, and manufacturing facilities more energy  
177 efficient. Efficiency work supports thousands of good-paying  
178 jobs at small businesses in every state. And weatherizing homes  
179 or retrofitting public buildings saves money and supports our  
180 efforts to address climate change.

181 The eight bills before us will increase energy efficiency,  
182 develop a modern energy workforce, and strengthen energy  
183 security.

184 H.R. 2043, the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings, or HOMES  
185 Act, introduced by Representatives Welch and McKinley, provides  
186 cash rebates of up to \$5,000 to homeowners for performing  
187 retrofits that achieve home energy savings.

188 H.R. 2041, introduced by Representative Tonko, Chairman  
189 Rush, and Representative Kaptur, would also help homeowners save



190 money and create jobs. This bill increased funding for the  
191 Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program to \$350  
192 million annually and modernizes the program.

193 This technology can also be a driver for increased energy  
194 efficiency. And Representatives McNerney, Welch, and Kinzinger  
195 have introduced bills that analyze and support new technologies  
196 in smart buildings and water systems.

197 The subcommittee will also review two bills that reauthorize  
198 grant programs to assist states and local governments in making  
199 public infrastructure more energy efficient. Representatives  
200 Stanton and Veasey introduced H.R. 2088, which increases funding  
201 for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

202 This program provides grants to states and local communities  
203 to assist their efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions and  
204 conserve energy. And this is something that has been a priority  
205 for mayors and local elected officials around the country, in  
206 large part because it funds infrastructure that will save those  
207 communities money.

208 Similarly, H.R. 2119, introduced by Representative Kelly,  
209 increases funding for DOE grants to improve the efficiency of  
210 public buildings. Both programs provide critical support to  
211 local communities that often lack the resources to take on large  
212 scale public efficiency-related projects.

213 We should also look at investing in the skilled workers who  
214 manufacture equipment and build and operate plants. Chairman  
215 Rush's Blue Collar to Green Collar jobs Development Act

216 established a comprehensive, nationwide program at DOE to improve  
217 education and training for jobs in energy-related industries.

218         And, finally, we have H.R. 2114, the Enhancing State Energy  
219 Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act, introduced by  
220 Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton. Obviously, this bill  
221 is bipartisan and reauthorizes the State Energy Program at \$90  
222 million per year and allows states to use the funds to implement  
223 a State Energy Security Plan. The bill passed the House by a  
224 voice vote during the last Congress, and I am hopeful that we  
225 can get it to the President's desk before the end of this Congress.

226         So, again, this is a legislative hearing on these bills.

227         We would like to move these bills. I want to commend the sponsors  
228 for their work on these important issues, and thank Mr. Simmons  
229 for appearing before the committee for the second time this year.

230         And I yield back.

231         Mr. Sarbanes. Will the gentleman yield the balance?

232         The Chairman. Oh, I'm sorry. I yield to the gentleman from  
233 Maryland.

234         Mr. Sarbanes. Yes. I appreciate that. I just wanted to  
235 echo your comments and say that we have a lot of very strong  
236 proposals here in terms of energy efficiency.

237         I want to thank Congressman Rush in particular for the Blue  
238 Collar to Green Collar Jobs Employment Act. In Baltimore,  
239 Baltimore City and a number of partners, including originally  
240 the Department of Energy here under the Obama administration,  
241 but also foundations, and businesses, and workforce development

242 groups have put forth an initiative called Baltimore Shines which  
243 is to install solar panels on the homes of low income and moderate  
244 income residents in Baltimore City so there is a positive impact  
245 on the bottom line in terms of their utility costs, reducing their  
246 utility costs. Also, obviously, helping reduce the carbon  
247 footprint when it comes to the environment and making sure we  
248 are doing the right thing.

249 But, also, a pipeline, as was alluded to, generally a  
250 pipeline for the workforce to move to green collar jobs which  
251 can really establish somebody and put them on a path to  
252 sufficiency. So, I thank you for those bills. And thank you,  
253 Congressman Rush, for your proposal.

254 I yield back to Congressman Pallone.

255 The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. I yield back, Mr.  
256 Chairman.

257 Mr. Rush. The chair also thanks the gentleman for his kind  
258 remarks.

259 The chair now recognizes Mr. Flores who is speaking for the  
260 ranking member Mr. Walden who is not present. The chair  
261 recognizes Mr. Flores to read Mr. Walden's statement for five  
262 minutes.

263 Mr. Flores. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this  
264 hearing to continue our oversight of the Department of Energy's  
265 Energy Efficiency and Workforce Development Programs.

266 I would also like to thank our DOE witnesses, Assistant  
267 Secretary Daniel Simmons and Mr. James Campos, for appearing

268 before us today. Daniel actually testified at our last  
269 subcommittee hearing, so we welcome you back for another round  
270 of questioning. I hope you feel the same.

271 Before I get into the substance of the eight bills before  
272 us today I need to make a point about the regular order and process.

273 As yet another week goes by without a single substantive  
274 legislative accomplishments, the Democrats are still struggling  
275 with the basic principle of regular order. We are familiar with  
276 three of the bills before us today from last Congress, and they  
277 are bipartisan. And that is we are appreciative of that.

278 The rest of these bills, unfortunately, have just been jammed  
279 through without regular order. In fact, some of them were just  
280 introduced on Monday so that they could be squeezed into this  
281 hearing. There were no background hearings held to establish  
282 the nature of the legislation. There was no technical assistance  
283 sought from the Department of Energy. There were no Republicans  
284 included in the drafting process at all. This is not regular  
285 order and it is certainly not a process that the Democrats should  
286 be proud of.

287 The estimated price tag for all eight bills is a staggering  
288 \$26 billion. This includes more than a half billion dollars for  
289 a green collar jobs program; \$15 million for a new energy and  
290 water efficiency pilot program; another half billion dollars for  
291 energy-efficient public buildings; \$1.8 billion for  
292 weatherization assistance; \$1.3 billion for a new home energy  
293 savings retrofit rebate program; and last but not least, an

294 astounding \$21 billion for energy efficiency block grants.

295 Mr. Chairman, we owe it to our constituents and to consumers  
296 across the country to give this a much more serious effort.  
297 Rather than rushing to authorize tens of billions of dollars of  
298 additional spending, we should have real oversight hearings to  
299 better understand the needs and to discover that there are gaps  
300 that require Congress to provide DOE with additional statutory  
301 authorities. With all of these new grant programs for  
302 efficiency, we have no idea if they are actually necessary, or  
303 if they are duplicative, or if they are in conflict with other  
304 existing programs.

305 Since several of these bills do provide grants to state and  
306 local governments, members of this subcommittee should hear from  
307 those state and local governments directly to identify gaps and  
308 see how the Federal Government can better support their efforts  
309 on energy efficiency and workforce development.

310 Also, since several of these bills revive expired programs,  
311 we should get our lessons learned from past experiences before  
312 determining whether programs should be reauthorized and, if so,  
313 how much we should spend. Unfortunately, at the rate we are going  
314 we are not going to get the opportunity to explore these issues  
315 more deeply. As a result, we are going to have partisan bills  
316 that pick winners and losers and reward special interests over  
317 consumers and over taxpayers.

318 Worse yet, we are going to repeat the mistakes of the past  
319 by doubling down on failed efforts from President Obama's Green

320 Jobs Program. Republicans are focused on real solutions to  
321 encourage energy efficiency and workforce development. We  
322 should not be wasting our time reviving old, expired efficiency  
323 programs, some of which have not received funding in years.

324 We are ready to work when Democrats are willing to reach  
325 across the aisle and to make a serious effort. I am disappointed  
326 that we are starting off this way, but I continue to remain hopeful  
327 that we can get back on track.

328 With that, thank you for holding this hearing, and I yield  
329 back the balance of my time.

330 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields back.

331 I want to respond to the chairman of the full committee.  
332 May I prevail upon you to just ignore the comments and continue  
333 with the hearing. So wisdom is from there on that and I am not  
334 going to respond to the other sides comments.

335 So, now we will recognize our witnesses. Our first witness  
336 today before us is the Honorable Daniel Simmons. He is the  
337 Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Efficiency and  
338 Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy. And the Honorable  
339 Mr. James Campos, the Director of the Office of Economic Impact  
340 and Diversity at the Department of Energy.

341 And we want to welcome Assistant Secretary Simmons back to  
342 the committee, and thank both he and Director Campos for joining  
343 us today. And we look forward to your testimony.

344 Now, the chairman will now recognize each witness for five  
345 minutes to provide their opening statement. Before we begin I

346 would like to explain the lighting system to our witnesses.

347 In front of you, if you are not aware of this, there is a  
348 series of lights. The light will initially be green at the start  
349 of you opening statement. The light will turn yellow when you  
350 have one minute remaining on your opening statement. Please at  
351 that time begin to wrap up your testimony. The light will turn  
352 red when your time expires.

353 Secretary Simmons, right now you are recognized for five  
354 minutes.

355 STATEMENTS OF HON. DANIEL R. SIMMONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OFFICE  
356 OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY;  
357 AND HON. JAMES E. CAMPOS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT  
358 AND DIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

359

360 STATEMENT OF DANIEL R. SIMMONS

361 Mr. Simmons. Thank you, Chairman Rush, Chairman Pallone,  
362 Ranking Member Upton, and members of the subcommittee. Thank  
363 you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Department  
364 of Energy regarding a number of bills addressing energy efficient  
365 -- energy efficiency issues that are being considered by this  
366 committee.

367 One of my top priorities in the Office of Energy Efficiency  
368 and Renewable Energy is energy affordability, and cost-effective  
369 energy efficiency is an important aspect of overall energy  
370 affordability. The United States' approximately 125 million  
371 homes and commercial buildings are the single largest energy  
372 consuming sector in the United States, consuming 74 percent of  
373 the nation's energy use, and over 80 percent at periods of peak  
374 demand. There are obviously opportunities for cost-effective  
375 energy efficiency improvements in this sector.

376 Today I would like to share some of the relevant work my  
377 office has done and is doing on the areas that these bills address.

378 The HOMES Act would create a program through the Department  
379 of Energy to provide rebates to homeowners for achieving home  
380 energy savings. Residential buildings use an estimated 21



381 percent of all energy used in the United States. And 55 percent  
382 of the nation's 118 million homes were built before 1980, meaning  
383 that there is a lot of opportunity for energy-efficient retrofits.

384 In EERE we are initiating research to develop better  
385 solutions for achieving cost-effective energy efficiency savings  
386 through advancements in building construction technologies, less  
387 intrusive installation methods, and more effective integrated  
388 envelope and heating/cooling technologies. To me this is  
389 somewhat personal in that as someone who lives in a home built  
390 in 1948, it is something I think about a lot, especially when  
391 staff comes and talks about building technologies.

392 So there is, there is definitely opportunities in terms of  
393 energy-efficient retrofits.

394 We also implement a variety of programs that promote  
395 residential energy efficiency, including the Home Performance  
396 with Energy Star Program, which works with EPA and local sponsors.

397 So far, the Home Performance with Energy Star Program has --  
398 program partners have reported completing improvements to nearly  
399 700,000 homes.

400 Additionally, EERE's Weatherization Assistance Program  
401 developed and maintains foundational workforce training and  
402 certification programs to ensure the work is performed in  
403 residential weatherization retrofits for low income homes.

404 The Smart Building Acceleration Act would take a number of  
405 actions related to evaluating and advancing the current state  
406 of "smart buildings" in the private and federal sectors. Because

407 buildings consume 74 percent of the -- of electricity generation,  
408 the Building Technology Office is working with National Labs,  
409 private sector partners, and others to examine grid flexibility  
410 to greater and better building control and communication  
411 technology.

412 We believe there is an opportunity through smart building  
413 technology to improve energy integration and storage options for  
414 both building owners and grid operators. We also recognize the  
415 importance of cyber security being built in from the very  
416 beginning of these projects.

417 Also, I should note that EERE's Federal Energy Management  
418 Program works closely with other federal agencies to improve the  
419 energy efficiency and smartness of federal buildings.

420 The Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency  
421 Investment and Accountability Act would reauthorize the  
422 Weatherization Assistance Program through 2024. The President's  
423 budget requests no funding for the weatherization, for WAP and  
424 the State Energy Program. DOE understands the congressional  
425 interest in these programs and will continue to manage them  
426 consistent with statute.

427 The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Bill  
428 expands the purpose of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation  
429 Block Grant Program to include diversifying energy supplies,  
430 including facilitating and promoting the use of alternative  
431 fuels, and reauthorizes the program at \$3.5 billion annually from  
432 2020 through 2025.

433           The Improving Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings Bill  
434 would authorize grants for improving energy efficiency in public  
435 buildings at \$100 million annually from 2021 to 2025.

436           The Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act would award grants  
437 to eligible entities to demonstrate advanced and innovative  
438 technology-based solutions to improve the energy efficiency of  
439 water, wastewater, and water reuse systems.

440           DOE is implementing a number of issues -- a number of  
441 initiatives to promote affordable, efficient, and secure water  
442 supplies. One effort is the Water Security Grand Challenge  
443 focusing on improving desalination; produced water from oil and  
444 gas as well as some nuclear mining; resource recovery from  
445 wastewater; the use of cooling -- -reducing the use of cooling  
446 water at thermoelectric plants; and improving small modular  
447 energy systems, energy-water systems for urban, rural, tribal,  
448 national security, and disaster response settings.

449           The Advanced Manufacturing Office works with water utilities  
450 and other industrial partners to improve their energy and water  
451 efficiency through efforts such as the voluntary recognition  
452 program Better Plants -- or Better Buildings, Better Plants.

453           Also, EERE's Weatherization Intergovernmental Program  
454 Office provides technical assistance that focuses specifically  
455 on the efficiency of wastewater treatment facilities, including  
456 WIP's Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future  
457 Accelerator.

458           Mr. Rush. Mr. Secretary, will you bring your remarks to

459 the end.

460 Mr. Simmons. This is it. This is the last line.

461 Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the  
462 subcommittee and discuss these important energy efficiency  
463 issues. I look forward to your questions.

464 [The prepared statement of Mr. Simmons follows:]

465

466 \*\*\*\*\* INSERT 1\*\*\*\*\*

467 Mr. Rush. Good timing.

468 The chair now recognizes Mr. Campos for five minutes for  
469 his opening, of an opening statement.

470

471 STATEMENT OF JAMES E. CAMPOS

472

473 Mr. Campos. Thank you. Chairman Rush, Ranking member  
474 Upton, and members of the subcommittee, it is a privilege and  
475 honor to serve at the Department of Energy, an agency tasked with,  
476 among other important responsibilities, managing the  
477 Department's 17 National Laboratories.

478 Mr. Rush. Will you pull your microphone in.

479 Mr. Campos. Can you hear me a little better? Okay. I am  
480 sorry.

481 Mr. Rush. That is much better. Thank you.

482 Mr. Campos. Well, again, Chairman Rush, Ranking Member  
483 Upton, and members of the subcommittee, it is a privilege and  
484 honor to serve at the Department of Energy, an agency tasked with,  
485 among other important responsibilities, managing the  
486 Department's 17 National Laboratories, supporting early-stage  
487 energy R&D across a wide range of science and engineering  
488 disciplines, managing the nation's nuclear weapons, and working  
489 effectively with states on our nation's energy challenges.

490 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf  
491 of the Department regarding legislation pertinent to the DOE.

492 ED's mission is broad and diverse, with a number of programs

493 and initiatives that focus on meeting its statutory obligations  
494 and enhancing the value of DOE's mission. ED's programs and  
495 initiatives are focused on businesses and education to establish  
496 critical linkages among minority-serving institutions, minority  
497 businesses, and federal agencies to address economic development  
498 in underserved communities, and to support energy workforce  
499 development.

500 ED is committed to increasing efforts for supporting greater  
501 inclusion of underserved minority populations -- African  
502 American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American and Pacific  
503 Islander, Puerto Rican, and Alaska Native -- including women,  
504 veterans, and formerly incarcerated persons, into science,  
505 technology, engineering, mathematic fields, and energy-related  
506 industries.

507 As Deputy Secretary Brouillette assured the chairman during  
508 his hearing before this committee in January of 2018, ET -- ED  
509 has recently reinvigorated the Minorities in Energy Initiative,  
510 now being called Equity in Energy. The program is twofold, with  
511 external and internal engagements.

512 For external engagement, ED is conducting listening sessions  
513 across the country with under represented groups to share insights  
514 and ideas to increase minority representation in the energy  
515 sector. And share ideas to increase minority representation,  
516 sorry, in the energy sector. For internal engagement, ED is  
517 working with all of the Department's program offices and the  
518 National Laboratories to bring awareness to these issues and

519 address potential solutions. The Equity in Energy initiative  
520 focuses on STEM aptitude, supplier diversity, technical  
521 assistance, and workforce development.

522 ED also administers the Minority Educational Institution  
523 Student Partnership Program, MEISPP, which provides students with  
524 summer internships at the D.C. headquarters and the 17 National  
525 Labs. Since 2005, over 650 interns from minority-serving  
526 educational institutions have participated in the program.

527 DOE has provided over \$700 million to support Historically  
528 Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, and other  
529 minority-serving institutions through research and development  
530 programs. In fact, my office was able to partner with and provide  
531 financial assistance to several HBCUs and MSIs this year to  
532 promote STEM and energy-related fields. To further these efforts,  
533 ED is working to release a Funding Opportunity Announcement this  
534 fiscal year.

535 Additionally, I am the Department's White House Initiative  
536 designee to Promote Excellence and Innovation at HBCUs. In this  
537 role, I lead the Economic Development and Competitiveness  
538 cluster, and collaborate with the Departments of Treasury,  
539 Housing and Urban Development, Education, Commerce, Agriculture,  
540 as well as the Small Business Administration. The cluster aims  
541 to engage the nation's HBCUs to develop workforce and community  
542 investments partnerships.

543 With respect to this proposed legislation, please note that  
544 the Department has provided the committee with technical

545 assistance in reviewing the bill, and will continue to work with  
546 the committee as the legislation being discussed today is  
547 advanced.

548 Thank you again for this opportunity to be here today. It  
549 is an honor and privilege to served in this capacity. The  
550 Department appreciates the ongoing bipartisan efforts,  
551 bipartisan efforts to address our nation's energy challenges.  
552 And I look forward to addressing any questions.

553 [The prepared statement of Mr. Campos follows:]

554

555 \*\*\*\*\* INSERT 2\*\*\*\*\*



556 Mr. Rush. I want to thank the gentleman. Want to thank  
557 all of our witnesses.

558 Members, we have a vote on the floor. It has been called.  
559 And it is my intention to recess the subcommittee until  
560 immediately after the vote.

561 So, at this point in time I am going to ask our witnesses  
562 if they would remain with us. We should be about 25 minutes to  
563 an hour. So, we will reconvene immediately after the last vote.

564 Thank you. And the subcommittee stands recessed.

565 [Recess.]

566 Mr. Rush. We have concluded with the opening statements  
567 and now we will move to members' questioning. Each member will  
568 have five minutes to ask questions of the witnesses. And I will  
569 start by recognizing myself for five minutes.

570 Director Campos, as you know, the issue of increasing  
571 opportunities for minorities and other underserved groups is very  
572 important to me. It is an issue that I have devoted my entire  
573 career in public service to, and it is one that I continue to  
574 hold on as a top priority as chairman of this subcommittee.  
575 That's the reason why I worked so closely with Secretary Moniz  
576 in the previous Administration on increasing the minorities in  
577 energy initiative and why I reintroduced my workforce bill.

578 In my understanding every president has the prerogative to  
579 focus on their own priorities. And we all certainly understand  
580 that the current President feels a certain way about minorities  
581 and about diversity. It is his prerogative to fill no matter

582 which he fills. However, the point mostly of the minorities in  
583 energy initiative as well as my workforce bill is that it really  
584 shouldn't matter who is in the White House, that the agency, DOE,  
585 has the affirmative responsibility to work on increasing  
586 opportunities for all.

587 DOE is one of the largest agencies in the Federal Government.

588 And it receives more taxpayer funding, \$30 billion of taxpayers'  
589 money than any department outside of the Pentagon. It should  
590 mean the agency that is the forefront of all the agencies to create  
591 opportunity and to use its resources to benefit all Americans,  
592 not simply the ones who are already a part of the GOB, the good  
593 ol' boys network, but all Americans. DOE controls billions of  
594 taxpayer dollars in contracts, loan guarantees, and funding, too.

595 Yet, in each and every meeting I have held with agency  
596 officials, whether discussing overall contracting dollars, or  
597 funding through the minority service institutions, or minority  
598 contracting as part of the Federal Energy Management Program,  
599 FEMP, or lending opportunities with the 17 National Laboratories  
600 of our nation, it is really disheartening to me to hear the same  
601 exact excuse: "Chairman Rush, Ranking Member Rush, the numbers"  
602 -- I am quoting them now -- "the numbers are not as good as they  
603 should be. We need to do more." End of quote.

604 Director Campos, while I appreciate your traveling around  
605 on "listening tours," my objective is to get beyond the talking  
606 and the planning stages and to offer concrete and practical policy  
607 and procedures that will help benefit all segments of our

608 population. Previously under Department of Energy regulations  
609 d-e-a-r, DEAR, there were diversity calls that overall govern  
610 all contracting, including management and operating, or M&O,  
611 contracting. This would require a diversity plan that includes  
612 educational outreach, community outreach, and economic  
613 development opportunity through technology transfer with the  
614 Labs. The purpose of the diversity plan was to encourage and  
615 foster relationships with minority-serving institutions, and to  
616 developed continued partnerships with professional and  
617 scientific organizations to promote careers in STEM education.

618 The objective of these plans was to create minority  
619 participation in contracting and subcontracting opportunities,  
620 research and development partnerships, and regular protégé  
621 responsive relationships, all of which are essential to the  
622 objectives of H.R. 1315.

623 Director Campos, I am not going to ask you if your office  
624 is working on any type of plan like this because we both already  
625 know the answer. But I will be submitting some questions for  
626 the record to your Department. And I will also will be bringing  
627 up this issue when Secretary Perry comes before this subcommittee  
628 next month to discuss DOE's funding. Let's get to work, Director  
629 Campos, on these issues so that we can start enacting serious  
630 proposals such as my workforce bill in order to address some of  
631 the disparities in how the agency does that business.

632 With that, I yield back. And now I recognize my good friend,  
633 the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. Upton, for five

634 minutes for the purpose of asking questions of our witnesses.

635           Mr. Upton. Thank you, my friend. And, Chairman, as I said  
636 in my opening statement, we do have a number of concerns,  
637 particularly as we look at the total price tag of nearly \$26  
638 billion. That ought to get everybody's attention. And as I  
639 said, a couple of the bills were introduced just in the last couple  
640 days, as recently as Monday.

641           I have just a couple of questions. And would just note that  
642 we just finished votes on the House floor. We have another  
643 subcommittee that is working. We have members on both. And we,  
644 because of the Democratic retreat, we have no more votes the  
645 balance of the week, so folks are off to the races in a variety  
646 of ways.

647           Has the Department been asked for their input, and have you  
648 supplied any technical assistance, TA, for any of these bills?

649           Mr. Simmons. We have been asked for, for technical  
650 assistance on Representative Tonko's bill. I don't know if we  
651 have the -- we have not given that assistance back. I believe  
652 there was a new version of that bill earlier this week.

653           Mr. Upton. In the case of the workforce bill, which I  
654 understand you also submitted technical assistance, has there  
655 been any response back to concerns that you might have raised  
656 to comments?

657           Mr. Simmons. I am not sure.

658           Mr. Upton. That you are aware of?

659           Mr. Simmons. Not that I am aware of. But I am not sure

660 where we are in that process.

661 Mr. Upton. Will you commit to working with us to provide  
662 a full audit of the workforce activities before the, hopefully,  
663 before the bill moves forward?

664 Mr. Simmons. Sure thing.

665 Mr. Upton. And in the case of the reauthorization of expired  
666 programs, can you commit to providing any and all reports and  
667 materials related to those programs before these bills hopefully  
668 move forward as well?

669 Mr. Simmons. Yes.

670 Mr. Upton. I would also note that I understand DOE's  
671 position on the State Energy Program. The Administration budget  
672 request I think was zero for the funds or for the program. Despite  
673 the expired program, I know that we in the Congress, and the  
674 President signed \$55 million for fiscal year 2019 for the State  
675 Energy Programs, in large part because the states do ask for it.

676 Do you have any sense in terms of where, can you help us?  
677 If Congress provides the money again are you going to be able  
678 to help us?

679 Mr. Simmons. Without a doubt. We will execute on those  
680 monies as quickly as we can.

681 Mr. Upton. And I guess the last question that I have is  
682 DOE does have an important role to provide technical systems in  
683 coordination to support the states in their efforts to plan and  
684 respond to emergencies, especially if there are impacts to energy  
685 supplies. We have this terrible storm hitting the Midwest right

686 now and coming this way. Hurricane season, you know, never goes  
687 away. What can we do to strengthen DOE's ability to protect the  
688 nation's energy supplies during these emergencies?

689 This morning on some of the national news they talked about  
690 perhaps widespread power outages that are going to impact the  
691 Plains and some of the Midwest with the storm that is coming  
692 through. What more can we do as we try to work in a bipartisan  
693 basis to help strengthen the states' roles to prepare for these  
694 emergencies?

695 Mr. Simmons. I don't have a, I don't have some great answers  
696 for that. However, the two offices that are really focused on  
697 those activities is the Office of Electricity, as well as the  
698 Office of Cyber Security, Energy Security, and Emergency  
699 Response.

700 Assistant Secretary Walker and Evans are very much focused  
701 on those activities and making sure that the grid is more, can  
702 become more resilient. And especially focusing on kind of some  
703 of the knock-on effects once there is one problem, understanding  
704 the entire system so that we can have an energy system that is,  
705 that is more resilient and that is hardened from what it is today.

706 So, we are, especially in QFRs, but I know that those offices  
707 would be happy to talk with the committee at any time to provide  
708 comments.

709 Mr. Upton. Maybe one last question. As you look at the  
710 50 states and the territories, is there any state that really  
711 stands above others, and is there any state or territory that

712 really needs some help?

713 Mr. Simmons. I don't have a good comment on that. But I,  
714 I will take that back and find out and find some good examples.

715 Mr. Upton. I would just note that we have members from,  
716 you know, a lot of states here on this committee I know that we  
717 would like to help, particularly as it impacts those constituents  
718 wherever they may be. And I would again commend Chairman Rush  
719 and others, a couple years ago a number of us went down to Puerto  
720 Rico and the Virgin Islands to see what happened because of the  
721 terrible hurricane there.

722 So, with that, I yield back. Thank you.

723 Mr. Rush. I thank the gentleman.

724 Now the chair recognizes Mr. O'Halleran from Arizona for  
725 five minutes.

726 Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member  
727 Upton, for convening today's important legislative hearing on  
728 energy efficiency legislation. It could not be more timely.

729 Deploying energy efficiency technologies and supporting  
730 such programs is critical to conserving our precious energy  
731 resources, and essential to bringing real cost savings to  
732 Arizonans and Americans throughout my district.

733 As Arizona continues to find ways to integrate wind, hydro,  
734 and solar energy into our grid, I look forward to introducing  
735 legislation in this Congress to help our electrical grid make  
736 more resilient and efficient. For a recent southwest energy  
737 efficiency project study, Arizona has an energy savings of 21

738 percent, and potential water savings of 4.1 billion gallons for  
739 year if certain efficiency programs are in place.

740 Mr. Campos, in your testimony you highlighted the Equity  
741 in Energy Initiative you run within the DOE to promote ethnic  
742 representations in the workforce. Could you provide a quick  
743 update on the listening sessions your office has had with tribal  
744 communities?

745 Mr. Campos. Sure, Congressman. Thank you.

746 We have just started this initiative about three months ago.  
747 And one of our first active listening sessions we did a conference  
748 called RES which deals with most of the Native American tribes  
749 across the nation. It was a productive session. And we, we sat  
750 there and listening on areas of STEM aptitude and supplier  
751 diversity. And it went well.

752 What we are doing now is compiling all the information,  
753 visiting other states, also doing events in Tulsa with Native  
754 Americans, and figuring out what is their exact part within this  
755 process and how we can progress forward in a both efficient and  
756 sustainable manner.

757 Mr. O'Halleran. I would suggest that you come to Arizona.  
758 We have a large number of tribes there. The Navajo Nation is  
759 the largest tribal nation in this country and within my district,  
760 and we do have some unique problems there. So, thank you for  
761 your answer.

762 As we discussed back in February, I believe the Blue Collar  
763 and Green Jobs Act has the potential to help increase and diversify



764 our energy workforce by providing funding for transmitting energy  
765 workers -- transitioning energy workers to learn new  
766 energy-efficient trades. How would H.R. 1315 help Native  
767 Americans increase their representation in the energy efficiency  
768 workforce? Mr. Campos?

769 Mr. Campos. Thank you, Congressman. Any assistance within  
770 the workforce development range helps out all the minority sectors  
771 across the country, be it Native Americans, African Americans,  
772 Hispanics, Asian Americans. So, the resources will be put forth  
773 equally and distributed in a manner in which is appropriate.

774 Mr. O'Halleran. As you know, my district is home to coal  
775 generation power plants, including the Navajo Generation Station.

776 Recognizing the many challenges coal-fired power plants are  
777 facing across the country and remaining open, I have a keen  
778 interest in the economic and societal impacts coal plant closures  
779 have on local communities.

780 Mr. Campos, does DOE use Section 201 of H.R. 1315 in its  
781 ability to help displaced coal workers transition to new energy  
782 efficiency jobs with good living wages?

783 Mr. Campos. Congressman, that is probably a question I will  
784 have to get back to you on to make sure that I am giving the right  
785 information.

786 Mr. O'Halleran. Mr. Simmons, I would like to ask you about  
787 H.R. 2114, the Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Energy  
788 Preparedness Act of 2019. In the last month there have been some  
789 documented fuel shortages in Central Arizona causing a 30 cent

790 per gallon increase at the pump. Would this legislation help  
791 states develop state energy security plans to prevent future  
792 lapses in fuel such as this?

793 Mr. Simmons. Well, it would all come down to how good the  
794 state energy security plan is. But if there are certain,  
795 hopefully, I think that that is -- that that would be the goal,  
796 to be able to look at some of those challenges, especially  
797 foreseeable challenges that may happen in situations like that.

798 Mr. O'Halleran. Mr. Chairman, I applaud the committee's  
799 work to discuss these issues in a bipartisan fashion on this and  
800 other issues as this Congress moves forward. And I yield back.

801 Mr. Rush. I thank the gentleman for yielding back.

802 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Latta  
803 for five minutes.

804 Mr. Latta. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And thanks  
805 for today's hearing. And thanks for our witnesses for being with  
806 us today.

807 Mr. Assistant Secretary, when reading your testimony you  
808 have an area you were talking about the cyber security that you're  
809 building, you want to see built into the design, production, and  
810 planning of new technologies. I know my friend from California  
811 Mr. McNerney and I have worked together on issues on cyber security  
812 and also on cyber sense and also the grid and the resiliency there.

813 I'm just kind of interested. And when you are looking at  
814 what you want to do and on cyber resilience for all the  
815 manufacturing supply chains, could you go into that, what you

816 are looking at?

817 Mr. Simmons. Sure. Well, there is a, there is a number  
818 of things. First of all, we recently announced a cyber security  
819 in energy efficient manufacturing, which is a new \$70 million  
820 effort to look at the future of manufacturing in the United States.

821 And the future of manufacturing is likely to be much more  
822 automated than it is today. And as we are thinking about new  
823 automation, that new automation will increase energy efficiency  
824 hopefully.

825 However, new automation creates new, new areas for attack.

826 And so we want to make sure is that as we are from the very  
827 beginning looking at any opportunities to make, to make new  
828 automation more cyber secure, automation and controls so that  
829 they are more cyber secure from the very beginning.

830 The Department of Defense also has a program in energy  
831 efficiency of manufacturing. They are focused on existing  
832 manufacturing. And as the cyber security and energy efficiency  
833 manufacturing program that we recently put out, we will work very  
834 closely with DoD to make sure that their comments and insights  
835 are considered as we move forward.

836 Mr. Latta. Well, let me follow up then, because when you  
837 talk, like, in my district I have 60,000 manufacturing jobs.  
838 And when I have been out in my district extensively and, you know,  
839 with the automation that is going on, and also Mr. Welch and I  
840 who in this committee we did the internet of things working group  
841 two Congresses ago. And what we are seeing out there with all

842 of the different technologies going on, how do you work with the  
843 companies out there or the manufacturers or the innovators to  
844 make sure that they are building this in? And also, at the same  
845 time, making sure that what they are putting into the product  
846 is secure to begin with, that they are not getting it from an  
847 insecure source that might have, you know, something in there  
848 that you could have a cyber attack?

849 Mr. Simmons. So, the -- I am not, I don't have a great  
850 answer for you. The cyber security and energy efficiency in  
851 manufacturing is a new effort so I don't have any stories to tell  
852 about that. However, both the Office of Electricity when dealing  
853 with the bulk power grid is very much focused on the issue in  
854 terms of cyber security of the systems that control the bulk power  
855 grid. And, also, the Cyber Security, Energy Security, and  
856 Emergency Response Office in DOE is focused on those issues.  
857 And I can get you some comments about, about their work and how,  
858 how we are working to improve that cyber security.

859 Also, a real asset for the country is the work that happens  
860 in the National Labs in terms of cyber security, at places such  
861 as Sandia National Lab, Idaho National Lab, Pacific Northwest  
862 National Lab, and looking at ways to improve cyber security.  
863 And they reach out to the private sector to make sure that they  
864 are, that they are coordinating and making sure that best  
865 practices are followed, as well as trying to understand where  
866 -- what cyber security issues we are seeing today so that we can  
867 make improvements.

868 Mr. Latta. Thank you.

869 Mr. Campos, in my remaining minute, how much does the  
870 Department of Energy spend on the annual basis, on an annual basis  
871 on the Workforce Development Initiatives?

872 Mr. Campos. Thank you, Senator. Our budget within my  
873 office, in particular, economic development, diversity, we have  
874 a \$10 million budget. And a fraction, fractions of it go across  
875 the spectrum. And what I mean by that is workforce development  
876 is woven in throughout my budget. About 6 point -- 5.8 million  
877 of it is for the actual labor, staffing. And then the rest is  
878 divided amongst all the initiatives. So, but workforce  
879 development is woven in within the whole, within the remaining  
880 budget.

881 Mr. Simmons. And if I may, there are other, there are some  
882 things that my office does in terms of workforce development,  
883 both the Advanced Manufacturing Office, weatherization, the  
884 Weatherization Assistance Program works on workforce development  
885 through improving training. There is a number of opportunities,  
886 there is a number of things that we are currently doing. We would  
887 have to get you a holistic DOE number from across the entire  
888 enterprise.

889 Mr. Latta. Thank you.

890 Mr. Chairman, my time has expired, and I yield back.

891 Mr. Rush. I thank the gentleman. The chair now recognizes  
892 the gentleman from New York, Mr. Tonko, for five minutes.

893 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you,

894 gentlemen, for your testimony.

895 Secretary Simmons, I agree that energy affordability should  
896 be a top priority. Low income households pay on average 7.2  
897 percent of household income on utilities -- I have seen even higher  
898 numbers than that -- more than three times the amount that higher  
899 income households pay. And according to the Energy Information  
900 Administration, 1 in 3 U.S. households faces challenges, or faced  
901 challenges in paying energy bills in 2015.

902 Last week when we debated H.R. 9, a number of members raised  
903 concerns about the costs of energy. And I believe they are  
904 sincere about wanting to keep expenses down. So, today I want  
905 to offer at least a partial solution on how to help lower utility  
906 bills for low income families.

907 Mr. Secretary, why do you think low income households pay  
908 a disproportionate amount in their utility bills?

909 Mr. Simmons. A disproportionate amount of their income in  
910 utility bills? Yes, they do.

911 Mr. Tonko. But why do you think that is the case?

912 Mr. Simmons. Because energy is a, energy is a necessity.

913 Mr. Tonko. But in terms of relative scale to more affluent  
914 households, why would their wedge of the pie for energy be  
915 disproportionately larger?

916 Mr. Simmons. Well, for one, they have less discretionary  
917 income. And so, when you are looking at the most important bills  
918 that you pay you have to pay to keep your house warm or cool,  
919 you have to pay to keep the lights on, you have to pay to get

920 from point A to point B. Like, there is no way around those  
921 things, so.

922 Mr. Tonko. I would suggest, also, that they live in  
923 inefficient homes with poor insulation, and perhaps old windows,  
924 et cetera. Unfortunately, many of these households cannot afford  
925 the up front costs of a retrofit, even when it is for  
926 cost-effective efficiency improvements.

927 Luckily, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program has more  
928 than a 40-year track record of making homes safer, healthier,  
929 and more energy efficient. The program has provided assistance  
930 to more than 7.4 million low income households since that  
931 beginning date of 1976.

932 Now, Mr. Secretary, do you think weatherization assistance  
933 provides a positive service to many of America's most vulnerable  
934 households, struggling families, seniors on fixed incomes, and  
935 the disabled for instance?

936 Mr. Simmons. Yes.

937 Mr. Tonko. Despite the program's success, I believe aspects  
938 of the program could be modernized and improved. A lot has  
939 changed in 40 years. There are new and emerging technologies  
940 and techniques to deliver even more effective services. So, Mr.  
941 Secretary, do you believe weatherization assistance should be  
942 able to include the latest, cost-effective technologies and  
943 services to achieve the program's goals?

944 Mr. Simmons. Yes.

945 Mr. Tonko. Okay. And, Mr. Secretary, many of my colleagues

946 have talked about needing to put innovation at the forefront of  
947 our energy policy. Today, weatherization funding is provided  
948 to states based on a formula. H.R. 2041 would create a small  
949 competitive grant program as a set-aside to that funding to  
950 support innovative weatherization practices.

951 Mr. Secretary, do you support fostering more innovation in  
952 traditional weatherization services?

953 Mr. Simmons. We, we very much foster, we very much support  
954 innovation because at the end of the day what matters is reducing  
955 people's energy bills and with the Weatherization Program.

956 Mr. Tonko. Thank you very much.

957 The most recent authorization of the program expired in 2012.  
958 That authorization was for \$1.4 billion, a level we have never  
959 reached in a sustained way. This bill includes a reauthorization  
960 at \$350 million.

961 Secretary Simmons, does the Administration generally like  
962 to see programs reauthorized at levels better aligned with actual  
963 funding?

964 Mr. Simmons. I'm sorry, I missed part of that question.

965 Mr. Tonko. Sure. Does the Administration generally like  
966 to see programs reauthorized at levels better aligned with actual  
967 funding?

968 Mr. Simmons. I don't think the Administration has taken  
969 a position on that question.

970 Mr. Tonko. Okay. Well, Mr. Chair, this committee's  
971 responsibility should be to reauthorize effective programs. I



972 think it is clear that the Weatherization Assistance Program,  
973 with its record of supporting efficiency for low income households  
974 deserves to be reauthorized and modernized.

975 Mr. Chairman, thank you again for holding this hearing.  
976 I would also voice my support for EECBG reauthorization, which  
977 the Environment Subcommittee heard from a bipartisan group of  
978 mayors provides the flexible resources to advance local energy  
979 agendas.

980 And with that, I will yield back.

981 Mr. Rush. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

982 The chair now recognizes my friend from West Virginia, Mr.  
983 McKinley, for five minutes.

984 Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

985 I guess what I am going to need from you all is some dates.  
986 And I don't think you are going to be able to answer initially  
987 where they are, so you will have to get back to me on it. But  
988 I would like to have with the Weatherization Program, and I thank  
989 the chairman for sponsoring this. I am one of the authors or  
990 sponsors of the Home Program, so it is something very sensitive  
991 and why we need to be moving on it.

992 And I appreciate this, the questions that were asked about  
993 why they, the poor, are disproportionately affected. So I want  
994 to go to a line of re-questioning, especially as it relates to  
995 articles about Pennsylvania not being able -- not spending the  
996 money that was authorized for them. And it was something like  
997 \$5.4 million Pennsylvania had -- we had provided Pennsylvania

998 to help out the poor. And they didn't do it. The money had to  
999 be returned.

1000 So, my question is three parts. One is, do you have, can  
1001 you get me or our office a list of all the states when they  
1002 established a program to do weatherization? Is there support  
1003 for that, to get that?

1004 Mr. Simmons. Absolutely.

1005 Mr. McKinley. Secondly, I would like to know when each of  
1006 those 50 states, and perhaps territories that would come into  
1007 play, when did they cut their first check?

1008 Mr. Simmons. Okay.

1009 Mr. McKinley. To see that they are complying with what we  
1010 are trying to reach out and help people. Maybe it is the  
1011 bureaucracy or something that is holding it back and they are  
1012 not helping out what we are trying to do to help out on that.

1013 Mr. Simmons. Okay.

1014 Mr. McKinley. And thirdly, I would like to know the  
1015 expiration date. How much money is being returned to the Federal  
1016 Government that the states are not --

1017 Mr. Simmons. Okay.

1018 Mr. McKinley. -- dispensing?

1019 And with it, so with that because I am hearing stories,  
1020 because we talked a lot about this in West Virginia, I am trying  
1021 to help out folks, that sometimes in other states they get the  
1022 money, the work is done, but it may be six months to a year before  
1023 the contractor is reimbursed. That is maybe the fourth aspect

1024 of it is, is there any justification way that people can,  
1025 contractors should be put in that position? I don't, I wouldn't  
1026 think that you would agree that they should be, it should be a  
1027 year before they are paid, do you?

1028 Mr. Simmons. No. No.

1029 Mr. McKinley. So, it looked like you want to say a little  
1030 bit more on that.

1031 Mr. Simmons. I was just going to say that, you know, we,  
1032 the -- we work very hard. The -- we work very hard to make sure  
1033 that the money they get appropriated under that program go out  
1034 to the states in a timely fashion. And we would hope that that  
1035 money gets then spent by the states in a timely fashion as well.

1036 Mr. McKinley. That you're aware. It is not so much wrong  
1037 with Washington. We have enough problems here. But it looks  
1038 like the states are not pushing it down to where it needs to be,  
1039 particularly to help the poor in getting their homes, their  
1040 efficiency.

1041 This, this article about Pennsylvania is very disturbing  
1042 that was put out. And I, I hope that we can kind of put that  
1043 to rest.

1044 So, if you would get back to us in a timely fashion with  
1045 the three aspects: when were the states established? When did  
1046 they cut the first check? And how much money did they return  
1047 to the Federal Government that wasn't allocated to help out?

1048 Mr. Simmons. Okay. We will do that.

1049 Mr. McKinley. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1050 Mr. Rush. The chair thanks the gentleman for yielding back.  
1051 The chair now recognizes my friend from the great state of  
1052 Illinois, Ms. Kelly, for five minutes.

1053 Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And also was wondering,  
1054 the report that Mr. McKinley asked for, can the committee have  
1055 that report of the states?

1056 Mr. Rush. Mr. McKinley, will you share that, your report  
1057 that you mentioned with the chair, and even send it to the rest  
1058 of the committee?

1059 Mr. McKinley. Yes.

1060 Mr. Rush. All right. So ordered. Right.

1061 Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Chairman Rush.

1062 Today's hearing is an important opportunity for the  
1063 committee to review several pieces of legislation that increase  
1064 energy efficiency and build a new energy workforce. Thanks for  
1065 being here. I have introduced H.R. 2119, which amends the Energy  
1066 Policy Act of 2005 to increase the authorization for a grant  
1067 program that was set up to provide grants for states to improve  
1068 the energy efficiency of public buildings and facilities.

1069 States and local communities often lack the financial  
1070 resources to undertake large-scale efficiency retrofits for  
1071 public buildings. This grant program makes it easier for states  
1072 to make these investments, which in turn lowers the utility bills  
1073 for the community operating the building.

1074 Assistant Secretary Simmons, in your testimony you discuss  
1075 the fact that homes and commercial buildings are the largest

1076 energy-consuming sector in the U.S. What more can DOE's Building  
1077 Technologies Office be doing to support state and local  
1078 communities who may lack the resources to retrofit public  
1079 buildings?

1080 Mr. Simmons. One of the first things that we can be doing  
1081 is providing technical assistance. And some of that technical  
1082 -- currently we provide technical assistance to the Federal  
1083 Government through the Federal Energy Management Program. And  
1084 there could be opportunities there to provide that type of  
1085 assistance at the local level.

1086 And as well as some of the work that we are doing in the  
1087 Building Technology Office is expanding the state of the art about  
1088 retrofits, since there are a lot of public buildings, and wanting  
1089 to make sure that there are more cost-effective, easier-to-do  
1090 retrofit options to reduce the energy footprint of government  
1091 at all levels, from the federal down to the local level.

1092 Ms. Kelly. You also indicated that DOE shouldn't focus on  
1093 grant programs like this that could be more appropriately left  
1094 to the private sector. In what scenario would the private sector  
1095 step in to fund efficiency upgrades that publicly operated  
1096 buildings?

1097 Mr. Simmons. So, one way that that, that that occurs  
1098 currently is through energy savings performance contracting where  
1099 that happens at the federal level but also at the state and local  
1100 level. And I believe that is an area that some people in that  
1101 community, some companies in that community see as a real

1102 opportunity for the future to work with schools, hospitals, and  
1103 other public buildings to do one way of improving the energy  
1104 efficiency of those buildings.

1105 Ms. Kelly. I won't ask you to do it now, but can you send  
1106 me some examples of --

1107 Mr. Simmons. Sure. Sure.

1108 Ms. Kelly. -- where that has happened?

1109 A characteristic of public sector, local, state, and federal  
1110 is its limited resources compared to the private sector. This  
1111 means a project upgrading public sector buildings may not be as  
1112 profitable as a private construction project, and without  
1113 incentives such as federal grants driving investment in public  
1114 sector buildings, our municipal buildings will only decline  
1115 further in quality and efficiency, resulting in lower quality  
1116 services and quality of life for our constituents. And I know  
1117 in parts of my district and in some parts -- I represent the south  
1118 suburbs, south side of Chicago, south suburbs -- and I know  
1119 particularly in some of the south suburban towns they just simply  
1120 cannot afford it. They just can't.

1121 As such, I am not as confident, I guess, as you are in the  
1122 ability of private sector alone to drive the market for green  
1123 construction. So, making the public buildings in our community  
1124 more energy efficient has numerous benefits, as you know. It  
1125 makes our buildings healthier and safer places to work by  
1126 eliminating drafts and improving indoor air quality. Energy  
1127 efficiency work creates good-paying jobs for local workers which

1128 I know is very important to our chairman, workforce development,  
1129 and to me. It is a win/win for communities across the country.

1130 And the Federal Government should be providing more support to  
1131 bolster these efforts.

1132 And with that, I yield back.

1133 Mr. Rush. I want to thank the gentlelady for yielding back.

1134 The chair recognizes now Mr. Hudson from North Carolina for  
1135 five minutes.

1136 Mr. Hudson. Thank the chairman. And thank you to both the  
1137 witnesses for being here. I know it is a long day for you but  
1138 it is very informative for us.

1139 Mr. Campos, thank you in particular for being here today.

1140 I want to focus on H.R. 1315, the Blue Collar to Green Collar  
1141 Jobs Development Act and the workforce development programs  
1142 within the Department of Energy. Workforce development should  
1143 be a truly non-partisan issue. As you may know, I have been a  
1144 sponsor of similar legislation which passed with unanimous  
1145 consent in prior Congresses. However, I have serious concerns  
1146 with this new draft.

1147 You know, as a previous sponsor I was cut out of the drafting  
1148 of this process. And because new language has been added, I feel  
1149 we will unfairly pick winners and losers at the expense of  
1150 consumers and workforce trainees.

1151 Mr. Campos, what is the Department of Energy's vision for  
1152 energy workforce development? And do you agree that it would  
1153 be shortsighted to limit workforce development and training

1154 opportunities to so-called green collar jobs only?

1155 Mr. Campos. Thank you, Mr. Congressman.

1156 I think that the DOE at large has interwoven workforce  
1157 development within its many different elements. And within my  
1158 office it is an important aspect for the growth of our country  
1159 and our national security. So, I am an advocate on doing whatever  
1160 is necessary to promote that and to work within the confines of  
1161 whatever ends up happening with this bill, and so forth.

1162 Mr. Simmons. And if I may, the Department as a whole is  
1163 very supportive of workforce development. There are obviously  
1164 some areas where there needs to -- that it is more of a critical  
1165 issue, for example around nuclear energy, for example, where you  
1166 have the nuclear fleet is declining in size over time. And if  
1167 you do not have people that can --

1168 Mr. Hudson. Well, I understand that. But, I mean, my  
1169 question is if we are only looking at green collar jobs are we  
1170 leaving out a lot of other jobs in the future that we ought to  
1171 be training for?

1172 Mr. Simmons. That is, that is certainly possible because  
1173 of jobs in the, you know, the oil and gas sector in particular.

1174 Mr. Hudson. I appreciate that.

1175 Mr. Campos, I understand that the majority requested  
1176 technical assistance from the Department and that DOE expressed  
1177 several concerns. However, it does not appear that any of the  
1178 suggested improvements have been made.

1179 Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent that



1180 the Department of Energy's technical assistance document be  
1181 included in the hearing record.

1182 Mr. Rush. Without objection, so ordered.

1183 [The information follows:]

1184

1185 \*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEE INSERT 3\*\*\*\*\*

1186 Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1187 Mr. Campos, I am concerned about the price tag also of H.R.  
1188 1315. The bill amends the Department of Energy Organization Act  
1189 to create a new program office with an authorized authorization  
1190 of \$500 million. It authorizes a new \$100 million training  
1191 program and it creates a new \$350 million Energy Workforce Grant  
1192 Program limited to energy efficiency and renewable energy. It  
1193 sounds a lot like President Obama's Green Jobs Program.

1194 Does the Department of Energy need additional legislative  
1195 authority or money for green collar job grants?

1196 Mr. Campos. Mr. Congressman, I will have to work with my  
1197 staff and get back to you on that.

1198 Mr. Simmons. One, we are, we are spending money in certain  
1199 ways that on things that you could call green collar. For  
1200 example, the Solar Office recently put out a \$13 million funding  
1201 opportunity announcement specifically on solar workforce. And  
1202 there's a number of other -- there's a number of other  
1203 opportunities and efforts going on besides that currently.

1204 Mr. Hudson. Great.

1205 For either witness, is there a risk that this new bill adds  
1206 new layers of duplicative programs? If you are already able to  
1207 focus on green collar jobs, are we duplicating efforts here?  
1208 I would ask either witness.

1209 Mr. Simmons. I would have to get back to you on that one.

1210 I am not familiar enough with, with all the language to make  
1211 a good answer.

1212 Mr. Hudson. Mr. Campos?

1213 Mr. Campos. My office will also get back to you, sir.

1214 Mr. Hudson. I appreciate that.

1215 You know, Mr. Chairman, you and I are friends. I trust you,  
1216 respect you, and we have worked together in the past. And I would  
1217 love to find a way to work together going forward. I just have  
1218 a lot of concerns about this draft and this legislation. And  
1219 I appreciate you giving me a chance to talk about some of this.

1220 Mr. Rush. The chair is eager to work with you. You have  
1221 been my friend and we have worked together in the past. And I  
1222 look forward to working together with you again in the future.

1223 And we will clear up any uncertainties and contingencies that  
1224 exist regarding the bill. I think there is a misunderstanding  
1225 of what the chair means by blue to green collar. It is not  
1226 excluding any particular characterization of jobs that are  
1227 available in the energy sector.

1228 But, and so I look forward to working with you.

1229 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from, recognizes the  
1230 gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Kennedy, for five minutes.

1231 Mr. Kennedy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you,  
1232 and the committee, and our witnesses from the Department of  
1233 Energy. Thank you for your service, thank you for being here  
1234 today.

1235 As you have seen so far, expanding energy efficiency is an  
1236 incredibly important piece of the fight to lessen our dependence  
1237 on fossil fuels and reduce emissions. I am proud to offer a bill

1238 along with my colleague Greg Stanton of Arizona, to help  
1239 municipalities achieve their goals of lessening a carbon  
1240 footprint.

1241           The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program  
1242 was authorized as part of the Energy Independence and Security  
1243 Act of 2007, and later funded as part of the stimulus in 2008.

1244           Oh, I am in the wrong seat. Forgive me.

1245           The energy efficiency and clean energy technologies are  
1246 critically important to ensure a livable future. In addition  
1247 to the environmental, civil, and economic benefits, they have  
1248 the potential to be some of the fastest growing job opportunities,  
1249 particularly in my district in Southeaster Massachusetts.

1250           Last month we heard from a panel of industry experts and  
1251 business owners that they can't find enough workers with the right  
1252 skill sets to fill the jobs that they need in a clean energy  
1253 economy. I specifically asked about offshore wind. And our  
1254 witnesses agreed offshore wind is coming and we don't have a  
1255 trained workforce ready. That is not just about jobs working  
1256 directly in the industry, but also about the supply chain aspects  
1257 that are on the cusp of providing an economic boom in the United  
1258 States.

1259           We have heard from many groups eager to provide the training  
1260 and education necessary for this generation of workers. For  
1261 example, at Bristol Community College, Mass. Maritime, and UMAS  
1262 Dartmouth, they all recently signed a memorandum of understanding  
1263 last June to help develop curriculum. Similarly, European-based

1264 wind companies have set up a American headquarters in Boston over  
1265 the course of the past six months. And recently, Tufts University  
1266 announced the creation of the first graduate program for offshore  
1267 wind in the U.S., focused on structural and geotechnical  
1268 engineering.

1269 We have enormous opportunities sitting right in front of  
1270 us to create a new energy -- a new American industry to become  
1271 world leaders in offshore wind.

1272 With that framework in mind, I would like to discuss how  
1273 the Department of Energy and the Congress can work together to  
1274 establish the building blocks necessary for this program to  
1275 succeed.

1276 I am here today to support Chairman Rush's bill, H.R. 1315,  
1277 Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019. This  
1278 legislation would ensure that we are training our workforce for  
1279 new jobs in clean energy, as well as connecting trained people  
1280 to employment opportunities, especially for under represented  
1281 and underserved populations at the heart of this bill.

1282 So, Mr. Campos, to begin with, as I have mentioned, offshore  
1283 wind is coming to Massachusetts. And this provides an exciting  
1284 new set of job opportunities. How can we make sure that  
1285 Massachusetts and the surrounding area is ready for those jobs?

1286 Mr. Campos. Thank you, Congressman Kennedy. That is  
1287 vitally important in all sectors of the U.S., including the sector  
1288 that you reside in, are important. What we are doing as an office  
1289 is increasing an initiative we have called Equity in Energy.

1290 And I spoke to that a little earlier in my opening statement.

1291 And we are engaging with various universities, community  
1292 colleges, groups, associations to engage in those conversations  
1293 and increase participation within those stakeholders, including  
1294 industry, including areas of workforce development, and also  
1295 including prison reentry. So, we are working with all these  
1296 groups to come to a better utilization and for a better edification  
1297 within my office and the Department in addressing those concerns  
1298 in renewable energy.

1299 Mr. Kennedy. So, I appreciate that. I would just note that  
1300 I went to the web page for the Office of Economic Impact and  
1301 Diversity to look at the Equity in Energy Program that you talked  
1302 about in your opening statement. The web page says, "site under  
1303 construction." So I just hope that you are able to put some more  
1304 information there soon as we try to make some investments to try  
1305 to guide some of that, the potential there going forward.

1306 Mr. Campos. Absolutely, Congressman Kennedy. We actually  
1307 have just started this new initiative about three months ago.

1308 And so it is under construction but we are actually working  
1309 towards this. Again, I will get your office the information as  
1310 soon as it comes out.

1311 Mr. Kennedy. Thank you.

1312 Mr. Rush's bill allows for DOE to provide direct assistance  
1313 to apprenticeship pro -- or, excuse me, apprenticeship programs,  
1314 labor organizations, state and local workforce development  
1315 boards. Do you think that it would be a helpful way to train

1316 and prepare our workforce for jobs in the future as they  
1317 materialize across the country, like offshore wind?

1318 Mr. Simmons. Through apprenticeship programs?

1319 Mr. Kennedy. Yeah. I mean, the basic idea of trying to  
1320 take some of those federal programs to work locally where we have  
1321 enormous opportunity, particularly in Southeastern New England,  
1322 with some economically challenged communities to try to put this  
1323 on the forefront of an emerging industry. So, want to figure  
1324 out how you all are viewing that as a potential area of  
1325 cooperation.

1326 Mr. Simmons. Unless I am mistaken, I don't think we have,  
1327 the Administration has a position on that specific aspect. One  
1328 of the, one of the things with offshore wind is that, that my  
1329 office is working on, is working on driving down the costs so  
1330 we can be able to, you know, realize the potential that there  
1331 is by having lower cost devices. But it is not enough to just  
1332 have the devices. You also need to have people that understand  
1333 how to install them.

1334 And so it sounds like that there is a lot of good opportunity,  
1335 there is a lot of good activities going on with some of the things  
1336 that you mentioned to make sure that there is a trained workforce  
1337 that can actually install these machines offshore.

1338 Mr. Kennedy. I am over time. So I just want to -- we have  
1339 a tremendous opportunity to actually incubate and grow an industry  
1340 that does not exist. It is going to need cooperation between  
1341 federal, state, and local governments. And Texas I think has,

1342 and the secretary has a record of showing, or growing a wind  
1343 industry in Texas that I think some lessons there could be applied  
1344 valuably to a new industry as well.

1345 So, look forward to working with you guys as we go forward.  
1346 Yield back.

1347 Mr. Rush. The chairman now recognizes the gentleman from  
1348 Michigan, Mr. Walberg, for five minutes.

1349 Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks to the  
1350 panel for being here.

1351 Mr. Simmons, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program  
1352 provides money to states to distribute the funds to support low  
1353 income residents by conducting energy efficiency audits and  
1354 weatherizing homes. Over the years, concerns have been missed  
1355 -- raised about the administration of the program and its  
1356 influence on state energy policy.

1357 The program has continued to receive funding, but Congress  
1358 has not reauthorized it since it expired in 2012, as you know.

1359 In your testimony, while discussing the Weatherization  
1360 Assistance Program you mentioned that, and I quote, "Utility  
1361 programs across the country have recognized and adopted the Home  
1362 Energy Professional Certification Program." You noted that the  
1363 Administration is not seeking any funding for the Weatherization  
1364 Assistance Program. But the bill before us contemplates  
1365 reauthorizing a significant grant program with additional  
1366 funding.

1367 And so, has DOE asked for this funding? And can you please



1368 talk about how your office and the Federal Government works with  
1369 states on implementing the program?

1370 Mr. Simmons. So, the first part of the question, we have  
1371 not asked for funding. We work, we have the Weatherization, the  
1372 Weatherization Assistance Program Office that focuses on both  
1373 the State Energy Program and the Weatherization Program, and  
1374 making sure that the money goes out the -- the money goes out  
1375 the door, the money that is appropriated by Congress. And  
1376 especially on weatherization, that those funds are -- we fund  
1377 training to make sure that the funds are spent in ways that make  
1378 sense, that we have quality installers, quality installation,  
1379 so that the low income families are really receiving the benefit  
1380 of these federal dollars.

1381 Those are, those are a couple of the ways that, you know,  
1382 we have oversight of the money. But it is also important to make  
1383 sure that the money goes out to the various states.

1384 Mr. Walberg. Along those lines, what do you see as the role  
1385 here for EERE with regard to what the states are doing?

1386 Mr. Simmons. There is a, I think that there is an important  
1387 oversight role that we need to play to make sure that the money  
1388 gets spent in ways that are consistent with federal law.

1389 Mr. Walberg. Appropriate, efficient?

1390 Mr. Simmons. Appropriate, efficient, and that the money  
1391 gets -- and the money is really going to the people specified  
1392 by Congress and is producing quality benefits for them.

1393 Mr. Walberg. Does the Department view that the

1394 Weatherization Program is really needed?

1395 Mr. Simmons. Well, we, the Administration doesn't have a,  
1396 doesn't take a position on that. The budget request is zero for  
1397 the office.

1398 We also understand where Congress is. And we, so money,  
1399 a substantial amount of money is appropriated every year. And  
1400 so we work very diligently to meet our statutory obligations and  
1401 to carry out the -- and to carry out the program.

1402 Mr. Walberg. I guess with that in mind, would you commit  
1403 here to providing technical drafting assistance --

1404 Mr. Simmons. Yes, sir.

1405 Mr. Walberg. -- for this bill?

1406 Mr. Simmons. Yes, sir.

1407 Mr. Walberg. So it does meet any concerns about making sure  
1408 the program is viable, the program is necessary, the program  
1409 functions well and we are not wasting dollars.

1410 Mr. Simmons. Yes, sir.

1411 Mr. Walberg. Mr. Simmons, as you know, the subcommittee  
1412 recently examined EERE's proposed process rule. At the hearing,  
1413 you committed to following the statutory process to clear the  
1414 backlog, which I applaud. But I was also struck by the logic  
1415 of the proposed rule which sought to prioritize those rules that  
1416 might return the most bang for the buck in energy savings, more  
1417 specifically half a quad.

1418 With regard to the legislation before us today, would you  
1419 like to see the similar logic included in the Weatherization

1420 Assistance Program or other proposed grant programs providing  
1421 support for energy efficiency retrofit should the legislation  
1422 move forward?

1423 Mr. Simmons. We don't have a position on that. That said,  
1424 it would -- metrics are helpful.

1425 Mr. Walberg. Would it provide EERE more flexibility?

1426 Mr. Simmons. I would have to hear from the experts in the  
1427 program office on that if it would provide us with more  
1428 flexibility.

1429 Mr. Walberg. Mr. Chairman, I thank you, and I yield back.

1430 Mr. Rush. The gentleman yields.

1431 The chair now recognizes the gentleman from the great State  
1432 of California, Mr. McNerney.

1433 Mr. McNerney. I thank the chairman.

1434 All of our states are great, aren't they, Mr. Chairman.

1435 Mr. Rush. All of them.

1436 Mr. McNerney. Okay. I might be the last person asking  
1437 questions this morning.

1438 Mr. Rush. And you are the greatest.

1439 Mr. McNerney. I appreciate the bipartisan nature of the  
1440 hearing this morning, all the bills we are looking at are  
1441 bipartisan, and that is a good sign.

1442 Energy efficiency is a fast-growing field and it is creating  
1443 good jobs. In particular, the Smart Energy and Water Efficiency  
1444 Act of 2019 that I introduced with my colleague Mr. Kinzinger  
1445 is on the agenda today. It establishes a pilot program for grants

1446 to demonstrate advanced energy innovation, technology-based  
1447 solutions for water, and energy efficiency, including improved  
1448 energy efficiency, water, wastewater and water reuse systems,  
1449 supporting the installation of advanced automation systems and  
1450 improved conservation quality, and predictive maintenance  
1451 through interconnected technologies.

1452 Mr. Simmons, thank you for speaking out on energy efficiency  
1453 and renewable energy program. I appreciate what you said about  
1454 the Water Security Grant Challenge. Are there any resources  
1455 being devoted to prizes, R&D, and public/private partnerships  
1456 for that program?

1457 Mr. Simmons. There will be, yes.

1458 Mr. McNerney. Do you have some idea what they might look  
1459 like?

1460 Mr. Simmons. They are, they are currently in development,  
1461 so we don't have, we don't have what they are currently. But  
1462 there is definitely the issue of water. Both water reuse in terms  
1463 of produced waters from oil and gas development, for example,  
1464 but also for resource recovery from wastewater. Those are two  
1465 of the important topics that we are, that we are looking at.  
1466 So, you can make wastewater more valuable than just --

1467 Mr. McNerney. Sure. Any idea when you will have those to  
1468 announce?

1469 Mr. Simmons. I don't. Hopefully we will have something  
1470 in the next few months.

1471 Mr. McNerney. You mentioned that water produced from the

1472 energy sector is being transformed from waste into a resource.  
1473 One of the challenges are the chemicals that are introduced in  
1474 this process. Is EERE committed to reducing the freshwater  
1475 requirements using fracking, and cleaning up wastewater that is  
1476 produced by fracking for safer use?

1477 Mr. Simmons. So, you know, in that grant challenge we are  
1478 working across the Department of Energy. So that, in terms of  
1479 fracking, that is really the Office of Fossil Energy. But as  
1480 I, so as I understand their, what, you know, their goal is  
1481 definitely to use less fresh water, to be able to do fracking  
1482 in a more water-efficient manner. And then to be able to, so  
1483 that when the produced water comes out for that water to have  
1484 much more wider uses, for example, maybe agriculture, --

1485 Mr. McNerney. Right.

1486 Mr. Simmons. -- rather than just having to dispose of it  
1487 in deep injection wells.

1488 Mr. McNerney. Well, good. I am glad to hear that.

1489 Is your office employing or intending to employ any  
1490 artificial intelligence technology to improve water energy  
1491 efficiency and predictive maintenance?

1492 Mr. Simmons. I would, I would say that that rings a bell.  
1493 But I would have to look into that.

1494 Mr. McNerney. Okay. It seems to me there is a lot of  
1495 opportunity there.

1496 Mr. Simmons. There is. There are a lot of opportunities  
1497 around the managing of complex systems such as wastewater

1498 treatment plant and AI. The Department of Energy is home to the  
1499 fastest computers in the world. And, obviously, we have a lot  
1500 of experts who look at that. And so any time that we can use  
1501 various parts of the -- various parts of the Administration, or  
1502 various parts of DOE can work together on an issue here, we very  
1503 much try to do that.

1504 Mr. McNerney. Mr. Campos, I apologize, I missed your  
1505 opening statement and the questions that may have come to you.

1506 But I am very concerned about the sort of retirement of folks  
1507 that are qualified to work in energy systems and in water systems  
1508 both.

1509 Do you have any trend lines of the number of people that  
1510 expect to retire in the next decade and the number of people that  
1511 are coming into the system to replace those people?

1512 Mr. Campos. Mr. Congressman, overall I don't have those  
1513 numbers, but I share your concern. There is an aging population  
1514 in all energy sectors across the board. And we are addressing  
1515 those within our scope of work. But there is a, there is a point  
1516 of concern there for sure. And I share that.

1517 Mr. McNerney. And you are, I mean, you are reaching out  
1518 or you are giving guidelines to reach, for these agencies to reach  
1519 out to communities across the spectrum to get people. I mean,  
1520 there are pretty good paying jobs that we are talking about; right?

1521 And they are good careers. They should be attractive to folks.

1522 Mr. Campos. Yeah, that is one of my, my priorities it to  
1523 get out there within different areas of the United States and

1524 to reach and to provide that information. Because you are  
1525 absolutely right, these are good paying jobs. And there is a  
1526 lack of information and awareness towards this. And that is one  
1527 of my priorities.

1528 Mr. McNerney. Are we requiring college educations for most  
1529 of these positions in your opinion?

1530 Mr. Campos. This is a mix. That is why in my Equity in  
1531 Energy we are doing STEM aptitude, which doesn't necessarily need  
1532 college degrees. So, it is a variety. And we are seeing more  
1533 and more that it is certificate-based, not so much a 4-year or  
1534 2-year degree needed in many of these areas.

1535 Mr. McNerney. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1536 Mr. Rush. The chair thanks the gentleman for yielding back.

1537 This concludes the questioning and answering segment of the  
1538 hearing. And so, I do want to thank the witnesses for your  
1539 appearance today before the subcommittee. And I look forward  
1540 to having you once again to appear before this subcommittee in  
1541 the near future. So, thank you for your time.

1542 The chair now entertains unanimous consent request to enter  
1543 into the record various letters and documents, including a letter  
1544 from the National Community Action Foundation; a letter of support  
1545 for and from the American Association of Blacks in Energy in  
1546 relation to H.R. 1315; a letter of support from the American Gas  
1547 Association in support of the HOMES Act; an April 21, 2011, GAO  
1548 report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant  
1549 Program; a DOE technical assistance comments on H.R. 1315; a

1550 letter from the U.S. Green Building Council; a letter of support  
1551 for H.R. 1315 from the Solar Energy Industry Association; a letter  
1552 of support from the -- of H.R. 1315 from Duke Energy; a letter  
1553 of support from the Alliance to Save Energy in support of H.R.  
1554 1315; a letter of support for H.R. 1315 from the Building  
1555 Performance Industry; and an article from the Pittsburgh  
1556 Post-Gazette.

1557           Seeing no objection, the unanimous consent request is  
1558 approved.

1559           [The information follows:]

1560

1561 \*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEE INSERT 4\*\*\*\*\*



1562           Mr. Rush. And seeing that there are no more witnesses and  
1563 no more members to ask questions, the chair will now adjourn this  
1564 subcommittee. And thank you once again for your appearance.

1565           I remind members that pursuant to committee rules they have  
1566 10 business days to submit additional questions for the record  
1567 to be answered by the witnesses for whatever period. I ask each  
1568 witness to respond promptly to any such questions that you may  
1569 receive.

1570           And at this time the subcommittee stands adjourned.

1571           [Whereupon, at 12:54 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]