

Testimony of Under Secretary of Energy Mark W. Menezes

U.S. Department of Energy

Before the House Energy and Commerce Committee

Subcommittee on Energy

U.S. House of Representatives

On Energy Legislation

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INTRODUCTION

Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, it is a privilege and an honor to serve at the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department), an agency tasked with, among other important responsibilities, programs that address energy management and savings and advancing energy storage technologies. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I have been asked to testify on six bills today, addressing a range of important energy issues. The Administration continues to review all of these bills. However, I would like to note that the Department is committed to create and sustain American global leadership in energy storage through the recently announced Energy Storage Grand Challenge. In addition, the Department feels strongly that energy and water efficiency standards need to take into account many factors, including consumer satisfaction, as well as safety.

I appreciate the ongoing, bipartisan efforts to address our Nation's energy challenges and I look forward to working with the Committee.

BILLS

H.R. 5650: Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2020

H.R. 5650, Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2020 is divided into two areas: establishing energy and water performance requirements for Federal buildings, with an emphasis on water-management activities; and codifying the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and its activities and authorities, which are currently directed to the Secretary of Energy under statute and delegated to FEMP by the Secretary.

The Department will continue to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

H.R. 3962: Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019

H.R. 3962, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019 is divided into 5 titles. Title I would require DOE to “encourage and support the adoption of building energy codes by States” and Indian tribes, regularly update model building energy codes, and certify State and Indian tribe building code adoption and compliance. The bill would also authorize DOE to award financial assistance to eligible entities implementing updates to building energy codes. Title II provides for a new rebate programs managed by DOE and amendments to existing industrial efficiency programs. Title III and IV amends existing energy efficiency requirements for Federal agencies, among other changes to related programs. Finally, Title V clarifies budgetary treatment.

The Department will continue to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

H.R. 5758: Ceiling Fan Improvement Act of 2020

The Ceiling Fan Improvement Act of 2020 would amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to not require large-diameter ceiling fans manufactured after January 21, 2020 to meet minimum ceiling fan efficiency.

EERE has provided technical comments on this bill. The Department will continue to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

H.R. 1744: S.T.O.R.A.G.E. Act

H.R. 1744, Storage Technology for Operational Readiness and Generating Energy Act would add energy-storage systems to the list of strategies that states should consider when developing energy plans. The bill would ask States to consider requiring utilities to show that the utility considered investing in energy-storage systems.

The Department will continue to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

H.R. 2909: Promoting Grid Storage Act of 2019

H.R. 2909, Promoting Grid Storage Act of 2019 requires the Secretary to establish a “cross-cutting national program for the research of energy-storage systems, components, and materials.” The bill would also authorize a “technical assistance and grant program” to facilitate energy storage adoption.

The Department will continue to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

H.R. 4447: Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019

The Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act would establish an energy storage and microgrid grant and technical assistance program within the Department, focusing on rural electric cooperatives.

The Department continues to review the legislation and looks forward to working with Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

CONCLUSION

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the Committee today. The Department appreciates the ongoing, bipartisan efforts to address our Nation’s energy challenges, and looks

forward to working with the Committee on the legislation under consideration today and any future legislation. I would be happy to answer your questions.