

Jeff Duncan (SC-03) Opening Remarks
Energy Subcommittee Hearing
Field Hearing on “American Energy Expansion: Improving Local Economies
and Communities’ Way of Life”
February 16, 2023
3 Minutes
As prepared for delivery

Thank you all for being here—both to our local witnesses and my colleagues who made the trip from DC and their districts.

This looks a little different than our normal hearing room, but I am excited we are in Midland, Texas for our first energy field hearing.

I believe field hearings gives us unique, “boots on the ground” perspective on how the policies and rhetoric coming out of DC actually impact regulated parties and communities.

We unfortunately have an Administration that has taken a “whole of government approach” to wage war on American energy production.

President Biden has repeatedly promised to phase the industry out of existence and has followed through by creating uncertainty, issuing regulations to make energy harder to produce and more expensive for consumers.

The “rush to green agenda” has also compromised our energy security—making us reliant on our adversaries for energy.

Two years ago, America was energy dominant for the first time since 1952.

In 2019, we became the number one oil and gas producer in the world. This drove down the cost for consumers at home and benefitted our allies abroad by providing supply as an alternative to Russia and OPEC.

Much of this success is owed to innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of the shale revolution, created by hydraulic fracturing in the production of both oil and natural gas. Something this community knows better than anyone.

Energy and Commerce Republicans have solutions to build off the success of the shale revolution and get us back to energy dominance – we have a series of bills that aim to unleash innovation by creating regulatory certainty and encouraging long-term investment.

This is in sharp contrast to the Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats who want to make oil and gas production impossible.

The United States produces oil and gas cleaner and safer than nearly anywhere in the world and we need policies that reflect this reality instead of ones that undercut our success. We need to unleash more American energy.

I am looking forward to hearing the perspective of our witnesses today, they are the ones who really understand the industry and the impact on communities.

I also would like to thank Chair Rodgers for holding this hearing and my colleague Congressman Pfluger for hosting us here in his district. I would like to yield the remaining balance of my time to Mr. Pfluger to give remarks.