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5 MARKUP ON:

6 H.R. 1068 (BUCSHON), SECURING AMERICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS

7 SUPPLY ACT;

8 H.R. 1121 (DUNCAN), PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

9 ACT;

10 H.R. 1085 (LATTA), RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS

11 FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING (REFINER) ACT;

12 H.R. 1058 (ARMSTRONG), PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY

13 INFRASTRUCTURE ACT;

14 H. CON. RES. 14, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE

15 REVOCATION BY PRESIDENT BIDEN OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT FOR

16 THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE;

17 H. CON. RES. 17, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF

18 CONGRESS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT IMPOSE ANY

19 RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF CRUDE OIL OR OTHER PETROLEUM

20 PRODUCTS;

21 H.R. 1130 (JOHNSON), UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL

22 ACT;

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23 H.R. 1115 (BURGESS), PROMOTING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION FOR
24 REVIEW OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES ACT; AND
25 H.R. 1160 (WALBERG), CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE
26 CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT REPORTING ACT

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28

29 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

30 House of Representatives,

31 Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security,

32 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

33 Washington, D.C.

34

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37 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m. in
38 the Room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Jeff
39 Duncan [chairman of the subcommittee], presiding.

40 Present: Representatives Duncan, Curtis, Burgess,
41 Latta, Guthrie, Griffith, Johnson, Bucshon, Walberg, Palmer,
42 Lesko, Pence, Armstrong, Weber, Balderson, Pfluger, Rodgers
43 (ex officio); DeGette, Peters, Fletcher, Matsui, Tonko,
44 Veasey, Kuster, Schrier, Castor, Cardenas, Blunt Rochester,

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45 and Pallone (ex officio).

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47 Staff Present: Sarah Alexander, Professional Staff
48 Member, Energy and Environment; Kate Arey, Content Manager
49 and Digital Assistant; Jolie Brochin, Clerk, Health; Sarah
50 Burke, Deputy Staff Director; Lauren Eriksen, Clerk, O&I;
51 Jack Heretik, Press Secretary; Nate Hodson, Staff Director;
52 Tara Hupman, Chief Counsel; Noah Jackson, Clerk, C&T; Peter
53 Kielty, General Counsel; Emily King, Member Services
54 Director; Elise Krekorian, Professional Staff Member, Energy;
55 Mary Martin, Chief Counsel, Energy and Environment; Jacob
56 McCurdy, Professional Staff Member, Energy; Kaitlyn Peterson,
57 Clerk, Energy and Environment; Emma Schultheis, Staff
58 Assistant; Michael Taggart, Policy Director; Waverly Gordon,
59 Minority Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel; Tiffany
60 Guarascio, Minority Staff Director; Perry Hamilton, Minority
61 Member Services and Outreach Manager; Mackenzie Kuhl,
62 Minority Digital Manager; Kris Pittard, Minority Professional
63 Staff Member; Greg Pugh, Minority Staff Assistant; Kylea
64 Rogers, Minority Policy Analyst; Andrew Souvall, Minority
65 Director of Communications, Outreach, and Member Services;
66 Medha Surampudy, Minority Professional Staff Member; and
67 Tuley Wright, Minority Staff Director, Energy, Climate, and
68 Grid Security.

69

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70 *Mr. Duncan. The Energy Subcommittee will come to order
71 for the Energy Subcommittee markup.

72 I want to thank you all for being here today. I am
73 excited to chair our first Energy Subcommittee markup, take
74 up a set of bills to increase American energy production and
75 restore energy leadership.

76 I recognize myself for an opening statement.

77 The United States became the global leader in energy
78 production and energy-related greenhouse gas emission
79 reductions. This success was the result of Federal policies
80 that encouraged innovation and investment in the energy
81 industry, policies that unleashed American energy.

82 Unfortunately, the rush-to-green agenda and misguided
83 government policies of the last couple of years have taken an
84 aggressive, top-down regulatory approach that has decreased
85 domestic energy production, reduced energy supplies, and
86 increased the cost for consumers.

87 Energy is the foundation of everything in American life.
88 High energy prices hurt low-income and middle-class Americans
89 the most. According to the EIA, one-third of American
90 households struggle to pay their energy bills. We went from
91 being energy dominant on the world stage to a self-inflicted

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92 energy crisis. We are facing energy scarcity, record high
93 gas prices, and less reliable grid.

94 Republicans have solutions to make us yet again energy
95 dominant, and I am grateful that we have an opportunity today
96 to take up our first set of bills seeking to achieve this
97 goal.

98 I also want to note that these bills went entirely
99 through regular order. We had a full committee hearing in
100 January to inform us on the state of American energy, as well
101 as a field hearing in Midland, Texas. The subcommittee also
102 held a legislative hearing the first week of February to hear
103 expert testimony on how to better the bills, and we are now
104 holding a subcommittee markup.

105 All the bills today seek to unleash American energy,
106 make energy more affordable for all Americans, and secure
107 energy supply chains.

108 My bill, H.R. 1121, protects American energy production
109 by prohibiting the President from declaring a moratorium on
110 fracking. It also reaffirms that states have primacy over
111 production on state and private lands. This is necessary,
112 because President Biden has repeatedly stated that he would
113 end fossil fuel production in the United States.

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114 To address energy infrastructure permitting we have Mr.
115 Armstrong's bill, H.R. 1058, Promoting Cross-border Energy
116 Infrastructure Act, which encourages the construction of the
117 energy infrastructure across the borders of the U.S., Canada,
118 and Mexico, helping us secure Western hemispheric energy
119 security.

120 There is also Dr. Burgess's legislation aimed at
121 streamlining natural gas pipeline permitting process at FERC.
122 Increasing pipeline capacity in the United States is key to
123 our energy security.

124 Several bills also address the importance of American
125 energy exports in the global market. The world is safer when
126 America is energy dominant, and Representative Johnson's bill
127 to unlock our domestic LNG would make it easier for FERC to
128 approve export terminals to deliver clean energy to our
129 allies.

130 We will also be taking up a resolution from
131 Representative Guthrie that expresses support for the free
132 trade and the export of crude oil and petroleum products.
133 This is necessary because President Biden and Democrats on
134 this committee have advocated for reinstating the crude oil
135 export ban. Lifting the export ban in 2015 has lowered

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136 prices, while also increasing our leverage globally. It
137 would be short-sighted to reverse this.

138 Dr. Bucshon's bill, H.R. 1068, Securing America's
139 Critical Minerals Supply Act, requires the Secretary of
140 Energy to assess our critical energy resources supply chain
141 to ensure we have a secure and available supply.

142 Mr. Latta's bill, H.R. 1085, the REFINER Act, requires
143 the National Petroleum Council to submit a report on our
144 refining capacity. It is essential we address not only
145 expanded production, but also refining capacity to meet the
146 growing demand.

147 We all know President Biden revoked the permit for the
148 Keystone XL permit -- pipeline permit on his first day in
149 office. This began his war on American energy. Mrs. Lesko
150 has a resolution expressing disapproval of President Biden's
151 revocation of the permit.

152 In addition to these bills, I am hopeful we can continue
153 to work across the aisle to secure our nuclear supply chain
154 and strengthen our grid, including the bipartisan
155 cybersecurity bill from Representatives Walberg and Schrier.

156 Our goal is to enact policy that delivers affordable,
157 reliable, and clean energy to all Americans, a goal I believe

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158 that we all share on this committee, regardless of what
159 party. These bills are a step to increase supply and
160 infrastructure, reducing prices so Americans aren't forced to
161 decide between putting food on the table or keeping the
162 lights on. They also get us back to being a global energy
163 leader, so we no longer have to beg our adversaries for
164 energy.

165 It is time to increase American energy production,
166 restore American energy leadership, flip the switch on
167 American energy. I urge all my colleagues to support the
168 bills in front of us today so we can achieve this goal.

169 And I will now recognize the Ranking Member DeGette for
170 an opening statement.

171 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and I
172 guess I can commend you for going through regular order in
173 the sense that you had a hearing and now a markup on these
174 bills.

175 But there are 30 people on this panel on both sides of
176 the aisle, and I have spent time working on legislation with
177 most of them. I think we have a real opportunity to come
178 together in this Congress in a meaningful way to advance
179 bipartisan energy policies that will help move our committee

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180 forward -- or our country forward, because everybody I have
181 talked to on this committee, Democrats and Republicans, want
182 to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and
183 reliable energy.

184 Everybody I have spoken to agrees we need to do more to
185 improve the security and functionality of our nation's energy
186 grid, so they can handle the capacity needs of the 21st
187 century, and all of us want to see America as truly energy
188 independent from the rest of the world.

189 So I think it is a real opportunity lost, Mr. Chairman,
190 even though we went through regular order, that the bills we
191 are going to be considering today won't solve any of these
192 issues, and are, in fact, Republican messaging bills, because
193 they don't do anything to break out nation's addiction to
194 oil, they don't do anything to lower the cost of energy for
195 hardworking Americans, or to make it more reliable. They
196 don't do anything to increase our nation's energy security.
197 They don't do anything to make our nation more energy
198 independent, and they don't strengthen the grids.

199 So there we go.

200 What the bills do is they make us more reliant on oil
201 and gas. They make us more reliant on the global natural gas

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202 market, and the potentially devastating price fluctuations
203 that we have already seen that come with it. They double
204 down on oil and gas production at a time where every country
205 in the world is investing in clean energy production. They
206 bolster an energy -- or an industry that is already
207 performing at one of its highest levels in history, and
208 reporting record-high profits as a result.

209 In fact, two of the measures before us today would allow
210 Big Oil to increase exports of fossil fuels from this
211 country, which, as we learned last year, does nothing to
212 bring down energy prices for hardworking Americans, but
213 instead is a huge gift to help pad the already sky-high
214 profits of the oil and gas industry.

215 Another bill before us, H.R. 1115, would fast-track the
216 construction of new gas -- natural gas pipelines by limiting
217 the government's ability to look at the environmental harms
218 they might cause.

219 Another is a back-door attempt to resurrect the Keystone
220 pipeline, which was abandoned almost two years ago.

221 And so, if we really want to bring down the cost of
222 energy at home -- and I think we all do -- if we really want
223 to pursue an energy policy that would provide Americans the

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224 affordable and reliable energy they need, and if we really
225 want to make our country more energy-independent, then we
226 need to break our reliance on fossil fuels, and make the
227 transition to clean energy, all types of clean energy, as
228 soon as possible.

229 Other countries are already doing it, our allies around
230 the world who understand the potential that clean energy
231 brings to both the economies and their way of life, are
232 moving now to make the transition as quickly as possible.
233 And frankly, I don't know why we wouldn't want to do the
234 same. Why not? It economically benefits the industry.

235 America has been the global leader on so many issues for
236 so many years, and it is time for us to be a global leader on
237 this issue, as well. We don't need to expand oil and gas
238 production in our quest for energy independence any more.
239 And by expediting the transition to clean energy, we can
240 break our reliance on the global market. By expanding the
241 use and deployment of clean energy technologies across the
242 country, we can grow our economy while protecting the air we
243 breathe and the water we drink.

244 So I would suggest, instead of ramming through the bills
245 before us today, I would urge the subcommittee to work

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246 together to come up with real bipartisan solutions to the
247 issues we face.

248 So after we finish doing this little messaging day
249 today, let's sit down, let's work together, and let's really
250 come up with some bipartisan solutions, because I think our
251 economy and our constituents and our energy future demand it.

252 I yield back.

253 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
254 will now recognize the chairwoman of the full committee, Mrs.
255 McMorris Rodgers, for five minutes for an opening statement.

256 *The Chair. This morning the subcommittee will take up
257 nine bills to continue our work to unleash American energy,
258 lower energy costs, strengthen supply chains. These are the
259 key elements for ensuring reliable, secure, and affordable
260 delivery of energy to all Americans, to their homes, to their
261 businesses, the grocery stores, and everywhere in between.

262 From gas to hydro to nuclear, these energy and climate
263 solutions will help ensure we are good stewards of the
264 environment, that we unlock our new -- a new era of American
265 technological leadership and innovation, remove regulatory
266 barriers, and put energy security back in the center of
267 energy policy.

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268 For example, Dr. Bucshon's bill will require the
269 Department of Energy to identify the critical energy
270 resources that are vulnerable to supply disruptions. This
271 would provide essential information to make decisions
272 concerning threats to our supply chains, and those threats
273 are present and growing.

274 China has been termed the OPEC of green energy
275 materials. Yet China's overall share of the energy minerals
276 processing actually surpasses OPEC's 34 percent of oil
277 market, 40 percent of copper, 70 percent of cobalt and
278 lithium, and 90 percent for rare earth minerals. We must
279 reverse this dangerous trend and secure our energy materials
280 supply.

281 We also must examine the role of petrochemical refiners
282 for energy security, and affordable transportation fuels.
283 This is the goal of Mr. Latta's legislation. More
284 predictable permitting is necessary to expand American energy
285 supplies and to operate the facilities to process advanced
286 materials.

287 Several bills this morning will help grow energy
288 markets, improve the permitting coordination with our North
289 American energy partners, and across states. Opening markets

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290 and providing access to these markets with pipelines and
291 export terminals will increase the supplies that make energy
292 and power more affordable.

293 I want to thank Mr. Johnson, Mr. Armstrong, Dr. Burgess,
294 and Mr. Guthrie for their leadership on solutions that update
295 our export policies, and ensure more coordinated and
296 predictable permitting for energy infrastructure.

297 I commend the work of Chair Duncan and Mrs. Lesko for
298 developing their solutions on producing and transporting
299 natural gas, a key energy source that is also low in
300 emissions.

301 And very importantly, I look forward to discussing Mr.
302 Walberg's bipartisan bill to protect energy systems from
303 hazards, especially cyber threats. We cannot achieve the
304 full benefits of an American energy expansion without reforms
305 like these.

306 While President Biden is focused on command-and-control
307 transition to unreliable and weather-dependent energy, we are
308 leading today for American energy to build a prosperous
309 future, a future that is more secure, clean, and affordable.
310 This is a start, a solid start to our energy agenda.

311 Of course, there is more to do.

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312 We must confront our serious nuclear fuel security
313 vulnerabilities, which are made worse by outdated policies
314 that allowed our nuclear fuel infrastructure to atrophy to
315 unacceptable levels. It is one year since Russia's invasion
316 of Ukraine, yet more than 20 percent of nuclear fuels for
317 American reactors continue to come from Russia. This
318 amounted to over 850 million for the Russian regime last year
319 alone. It is a major supply threat and a security threat.
320 Congress must work to ban Russian imports, and send the
321 market signal needed to restore American nuclear fuel
322 infrastructure. That is the purpose of my bill, H.R. 1042,
323 the Reduce Russian Uranium Imports Act.

324 I want to thank the Ranking Member Pallone for working
325 with me to bring this bill to a future markup. We must work
326 together to make sure that America is not reliant on Russia.

327 With that, let's go to work, Mr. Chairman, for the
328 American people and for our energy and national security. I
329 yield back.

330 *Mr. Duncan. I thank the gentlelady, and I will now
331 recognize the gentleman from New Jersey, the ranking member
332 of the full committee, Mr. Pallone, for a five-minutes
333 opening statement.

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334 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

335 Today committee Republicans are once again showing that
336 they plan to prioritize the needs of big oil and gas
337 companies over the needs of the American people. It is
338 unfortunate, because there are many members on our side of
339 the aisle who have voiced interest in durable bipartisan
340 solutions that would allow us to build more clean energy
341 infrastructure to ensure we lead the world in the transition
342 to a clean energy economy. This market demonstrates that is
343 not the approach that the Republican majority is looking to
344 take.

345 Republicans love to talk about an all-of-the-above
346 approach to building our energy assets, but none of the bills
347 we are marking up either addresses or even references clean
348 energy. This markup is in stark contrast to committee
349 Democrats delivering historic wins for the American people.
350 We enacted the Inflation Reduction Act that has already
351 created more than 100,000 good-paying, clean energy American
352 jobs, will cut costs for working families, and tackle the
353 worsening climate crisis.

354 Today Republicans are bringing up eight partisan bills
355 that have no chance of ever becoming law. They know this,

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356 because they are literally some of the same bills that they
357 pushed through the last time they were in charge of the
358 House, more than four years ago. And at that time there was
359 a Republican President and a Republican-controlled Senate,
360 and they still couldn't get them enacted. But here they are
361 again, attempting to move these same old bills.

362 H.R. 1058, the Promoting Cross-border Energy
363 Infrastructure Act, is nothing more than a shadow approval of
364 the Keystone pipeline masquerading as legislation. It
365 establishes that every single cross-border energy project is
366 presumptively in the public interest, unless proven
367 otherwise. And this is nothing more than a green light for
368 oil and gas pipeline developers to construct international
369 facilities without sufficient oversight from the Federal
370 Government.

371 H.R. 1130, the so-called Unlocking our Domestic LNG
372 Potential Act, removes the requirement that the Department of
373 Energy determine proposed LNG exports are within the public
374 interest. This Republican bill would lead to more American
375 LNG being sent to China. So much for Republican claims of
376 being tough on China.

377 By removing the public interest test for natural gas

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378 exports, both H.R. 1130 and H. Con. Res 17 create a handout
379 to our geopolitical rivals and to Republicans' fossil fuel
380 friends at the expense of the American consumer. At a time
381 when many Americans across the country are suffering from
382 high energy costs this winter, these Republican bills would
383 ensure that the problem worsens in the coming years.

384 H.R. 1115 effectively makes the Federal Energy
385 Regulatory Commission, or FERC, the final arbiter on all
386 things environmentally review related for natural gas
387 pipelines. Unfortunately, in that process it sets up a
388 likely adversarial relationship between FERC and other
389 Federal and state agencies that play a role both in writing
390 environmental reviews for pipelines and in the permitting
391 process.

392 I understand that Republicans believe this bill will
393 speed up the process for natural gas pipeline approval, but I
394 think it will actually do the opposite, and turn what is
395 currently a thorough, collaborative process between agencies
396 into an adversarial one. In fact, this was the fear that
397 FERC's director of the Office of Energy Projects testified to
398 back in 2017.

399 Now, most of the remainder of the bills, I think, are

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400 meaningless, pure signals to the fossil fuel industry that
401 Republicans support them. H. Con. Res. 14 is a grasp to
402 resurrect the Keystone pipeline, showing Republicans are
403 still stuck in the energy debates of the last decade; H.R.
404 150 would override our environmental and public lands laws to
405 protect Big Oil and Gas's ability to frack; and H.R. 1085
406 merely generates a report representing the oil industry's
407 views under the auspices of a government agency.

408 There is one bill, however, that does have some
409 potential, and that is H.R. 1160, a bipartisan bill sponsored
410 by Representatives Schrier and Walberg. It gets at an issue
411 where we have been able to find some common ground with
412 Republicans, and that is energy infrastructure,
413 cybersecurity. We support the Department of Energy's role in
414 protecting our electric infrastructure. And historically, we
415 have worked together on this important issue.

416 But aside from this bill, none of the others offer real
417 solutions to the complex energy problems and challenges of
418 the 21st century. If Republicans really want to unleash
419 American energy, I invite them to stop trying to tear down
420 critical climate and environmental programs, and work with us
421 to build a better future for all by finding a way to build

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422 clean energy quickly without endangering our environment.

423 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

424 *Mr. Duncan. I thank the gentleman, and before I
425 recognize other members for an opening statement I would like
426 to enter into the record an article -- it is actually an
427 editorial board opinion from the Wall Street Journal: SOS
428 for the U.S. Electric Grid. It really sums up some of the
429 problems in the rush to renewables, and where the shortfalls
430 are going to be, taking fossil fuel generation offline.

431 So I enter that for the record, without objection. So
432 ordered.

433 [The information follows:]

434

435 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

436

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437 *Mr. Duncan. Okay, any members wishing to have an
438 opening statement?

439 The chair will recognize Mr. Latta for three minutes.

440 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank
441 you for holding today's markup. It is very important. I
442 believe it is important that we acknowledge the fact that, as
443 Republicans promised, we are rolling up our sleeves and
444 starting the work that the American people sent us here to do
445 through regular order and in full transparency.

446 Thank you, Madam Chair and to our subcommittee chair,
447 for your shared commitment to ensuring this committee and
448 subcommittee work as they were intended under the rules.
449 Today I am glad to see that this subcommittee is marking up a
450 collection of bills that will put the United States back on
451 track in our efforts to provide the American people with
452 access to affordable and reliable energy.

453 In just two years the Biden Administration has done
454 immense harm to the cause of American energy independence.
455 Rather than unleashing American energy, President Biden has
456 begged countries like Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and the rest
457 of OPEC for assistance with gas prices. Republicans
458 understand that we should be supporting all domestic sources

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459 of energy development, and not picking winners and losers in
460 order to pursue costly and workable climate policies.

461 The slate of bills before us today will kickstart our
462 efforts to reverse these disastrous policies, and return the
463 United States to its position as the preeminent global energy
464 producer.

465 I look forward to discussing my legislation, REFINER
466 Act, and hearing from my colleagues on their energy
467 solutions, as well.

468 Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

469 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members wishing to provide an
470 opening statement?

471 Mr. Pfluger is recognized.

472 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

473 Over the last several weeks this committee has heard
474 expert testimony, both here in D.C. and in my district in
475 Midland, Texas, on the need for the Federal Government to
476 unleash American energy to supply the resources for our
477 allies and lower the cost here at home.

478 This Administration has made it clear; the President
479 campaigned on this. He said he was going to end fossil
480 fuels. These efforts to reduce supply will not reduce demand

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481 of natural gas, it will only hand the keys to China and
482 Russia, while destroying American small businesses. The U.S.
483 has the ability to supply the world with secure, reliable
484 energy. Increasing exports to our partners and allies will
485 strengthen their security, boost our economy, and make
486 America stronger on the world stage.

487 In my district in the Permian Basin, starting in 2008 in
488 the shale revolution, we have literally transformed the
489 world. We have literally lowered the cost for every American
490 family. And it saddens me to hear the words of my colleagues
491 on the other side of the aisle who chose not to come to the
492 field hearings, who chose not to meet my constituents, and
493 calls my constituents Big Oil. I am not -- I couldn't
494 disagree with that more. I wish that my colleagues would
495 come to Midland, Texas and hear the testimony of Mayor Lori
496 Blong, or hear the testimony of Adrian Carrasco, his 64
497 employees. I am sorry, but these are not Big Oil. These are
498 everyday families who are putting their hard work, their
499 blood, sweat, and tears into actually reducing the cost for
500 Americans to the tune of about \$10,000 a year.

501 To hear the word that allowing exports does nothing for
502 our country, there is an all-out assault through every

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503 policy, through every executive order, through every piece of
504 legislation in the last Congress on the industry that
505 literally is the foundation for this country's economy, and
506 the foundation for this country's national security. And to
507 think about Adrian Carrasco and his 64 employees in Midland,
508 Texas, and to have my colleagues on the other side of the
509 aisle call them Big Oil, when every single day, no matter how
510 hot or how cold it is, they are going to work, they are
511 putting food on the table for their families, they are making
512 their communities stronger, and in the process of doing so
513 they are providing affordable, reliable energy.

514 I would like to thank the chairman of the full
515 committee, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and the chairman of this
516 subcommittee, Mr. Duncan, for actually getting back to the
517 facts. It is kind of like we are living in the Twilight Zone
518 with some of these testimonies. The facts don't support what
519 this country actually needs. The narrative does not support
520 what this country actually needs. Let's get to the facts.
521 Let's look at the economy and the market forces that are at
522 play. And by unleashing American energy and allowing private
523 industry to do what it is done for so long, winning World War
524 II and so many other factors throughout the decades, I think

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525 we are on the right track, and I commend the chairman for
526 putting this markup together to unleash American energy.

527 I yield back.

528 *Mr. Duncan. I thank the gentleman. Any other members
529 wishing to provide an opening statement?

530 Okay, hearing none, I have a point of personal
531 privilege. I am a grandfather as of 5:19 yesterday.

532 [Applause.]

533 *Mr. Duncan. A little grandson, eight pounds, four
534 ounces. His name is John Whalen -- JW, they are going to
535 call him -- Duncan. And that is my middle son, John Philip,
536 JP. So anyway, all right, so that is what it is about, the
537 future of this country, what we are doing for our kids and
538 our grandkids. And so I am excited.

539 All right, let's get to work. The chair will now call
540 up H.R. 1068, and ask the clerk to report the bill.

541 *The Clerk. H.R. 1068, to amend the Department of
542 Energy Organization Act to secure the supply of critical
543 energy resources, including critical minerals and other
544 materials, and for other purposes.

545 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
546 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

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547 amendment at any point.

548 So ordered.

549 [The bill follows:]

550

551 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

552

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553 *Mr. Duncan. Are there bipartisan amendments to the
554 bill?

555 Hearing none, any other amendments to the bill?

556 *Mr. Bucshon. This is 1068, right?

557 *Mr. Duncan. All right. So the chair will now
558 recognize the author of the bill, H.R. 1068, as amended -- or
559 not amended -- to speak on it.

560 Mr. Bucshon, you are recognized for five minutes.

561 *Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am excited to
562 be here today to participate in the markup of nine important
563 pieces of legislation that work together to unleash American
564 energy production.

565 I want to make special note of this bill, H.R. 1068, the
566 Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act. And this
567 should be a bipartisan goal. Over the last few years, this
568 committee has discussed the importance of critical minerals
569 and other energy resources necessary to providing for our
570 energy needs. We also know we must consider the potential
571 vulnerabilities of existing supply chains and domestic
572 production and processing capacity.

573 With new sources of energy generation coming online, we
574 must take steps to ensure we safeguard the supply chains of

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575 our energy resources to protect our constituents from major
576 price fluctuations in their energy bills, as well as prevent
577 our adversaries from weaponizing potential vulnerabilities in
578 these supply chains.

579 Currently, the U.S. imports 65 percent of its rare earth
580 minerals. These rare earth minerals are required for a
581 diverse, all-of-the-above energy transition. By importing
582 these materials from foreign countries, the U.S. is left
583 beholden to manipulation, potentially, from foreign
584 adversaries. The U.S. could produce these minerals in a
585 manner that is cleaner and safer than other parts of the
586 world, where production is tied to dangerous working
587 conditions, child labor, exploitation, and extremely low pay.

588 I believe H.R. 1068 will provide the Department of
589 Energy an essential tool to help secure our nation's energy
590 needs by ensuring that the Secretary of Energy is engaged
591 productively in addressing this multi-faceted issue.
592 Specifically, the bill would require the Secretary of Energy
593 to conduct an assessment of our nation's energy supply,
594 identify resources that are critical to our economy and
595 vulnerabilities in the supply chains of critical energy
596 resources, and determine the extent to which critical energy

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597 resources play a role in developing new energy technologies.

598 The bill defines critical energy resources as those that
599 are "essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the
600 United States and the supply chain of which is vulnerable to
601 disruption.'`

602 The bill would also direct the Secretary of Energy to
603 diversify energy sourcing and increase domestic production,
604 refining, and processing of these critical resources.

605 As a supporter of an all-of-the-above approach, energy
606 approach, it is crucial that we take steps to safeguard and
607 secure the energy resources necessary to keep the lights on,
608 rates down, and emissions low.

609 I want to thank those of my colleagues who are already
610 cosponsors of this legislation, and I urge all members of the
611 subcommittee to support H.R. 1068.

612 I yield back the balance of my time.

613 *Mr. Duncan. Does any other member wish to be
614 recognized on the bill?

615 The gentleman is recognized.

616 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you --

617 *Mr. Duncan. For what purpose do you seek recognition?

618 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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619 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

620 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I voice my
621 opposition to H.R. 1068, the Securing America's Critical
622 Infrastructure Act.

623 The Department of Energy is doing great work on
624 developing and enhancing critical mineral supply chains. I
625 do not have a problem with codifying these efforts into DoE's
626 responsibilities under the DoE Organization Act. But
627 unfortunately, this bill goes well beyond that goal.

628 I and many of my Democratic colleagues acknowledge that
629 critical minerals are an important part of the clean energy
630 transition. But this bill is about much more than just
631 critical minerals, and creates ambiguities which could be
632 exploited by the oil and gas industry.

633 First, this bill uses a definition of "critical energy
634 resource" which is incredibly broad, and open to
635 interpretation. It could apply to anything pertaining to
636 energy, including natural gas, petroleum, and coal. It is
637 certainly not restricted to critical minerals, and is not
638 designed to actually help our transition to clean energy
639 alternatives. This will also come up later at today's
640 Environment Subcommittee markup. But this overly broad

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641 definition of "critical energy resources" is a non-starter.

642 Additionally, this bill creates ambiguity by potentially
643 expanding DoE authority over domestic production, separation
644 and processing, authorities that have been traditionally
645 housed at the Environmental Protection Agency and the
646 Department of the Interior. DoE has great expertise. We
647 should identify where the agency excels, and give them clear
648 direction to focus on those given issues. Unfortunately, by
649 expanding their mandate into areas that have traditionally
650 been led by EPA and Interior, we are moving away from those
651 agencies' expertise of how best to protect the communities
652 and lands and extraction and production processes.

653 With that said, I do think there are bipartisan efforts
654 that we could work on to address our nation's critical
655 mineral needs. For example, there are cutting-edge
656 technology developers working to improve the transparency of
657 critical mineral supply chains. They are developing
658 voluntary digital battery identification systems, so that
659 manufacturers can easily know and verify where minerals are
660 being sourced from. Bringing this added transparency to
661 battery manufacturing is an important step towards supporting
662 domestic sources of these minerals, including from recyclers.

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663 So rather than masquerading under critical energy
664 resource, which could mean oil, gas, and coal, we should work
665 together on specific critical mineral issues, which everyone
666 here acknowledges need to be addressed to support the
667 transition to clean energy. I truly hope that we can find
668 some common ground on these issues.

669 But unfortunately, this bill, along with so many of the
670 others under consideration today, are not going to address
671 our nation's energy needs.

672 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back my time, and
673 encourage members to oppose this bill.

674 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any other
675 members seeking recognition?

676 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
677 1068 to the full committee.

678 All those in favor, say aye.

679 Those opposed, no.

680 And the ayes have it.

681 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Chairman?

682 *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

683 *Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon. I ask for a roll call vote.

684 *Mr. Duncan. Okay, the gentleman asked for a roll call

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685 vote, and so the clerk will call the roll.

686 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

687 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.

688 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.

689 Rep. Latta?

690 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

691 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

692 Rep. Guthrie?

693 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

694 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.

695 Rep. Griffith?

696 [No response.]

697 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

698 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.

699 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.

700 Rep. Bucshon?

701 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

702 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.

703 Rep. Walberg?

704 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

705 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.

706 Rep. Palmer?

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707 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

708 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.

709 Rep. Curtis?

710 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

711 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.

712 Rep. Lesko?

713 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

714 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.

715 Rep. Pence?

716 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

717 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.

718 Rep. Armstrong?

719 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

720 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.

721 Rep. Weber?

722 [No response.]

723 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson?

724 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]

725 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.

726 Rep. Pfluger?

727 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

728 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.

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729 Rep. Rodgers?
730 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
731 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
732 Rep. Duncan?
733 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
734 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
735 Rep. DeGette?
736 *Ms. DeGette. [Inaudible.]
737 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
738 Rep. Peters?
739 [No response.]
740 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher?
741 [No response.]
742 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui?
743 *Ms. Matsui. No.
744 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
745 Rep. Tonko?
746 *Mr. Tonko. [Inaudible.]
747 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
748 Rep. Veasey?
749 *Mr. Veasey. No.
750 *The Clerk. Rep. Veasey votes no.

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751 Rep. Kuster?

752 *Ms. Kuster. No.

753 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.

754 Rep. Schrier?

755 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]

756 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.

757 Rep. Castor?

758 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

759 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.

760 Rep. Sarbanes?

761 [No response.]

762 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?

763 [No response.]

764 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester?

765 [No response.]

766 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone?

767 *Mr. Pallone. No.

768 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

769 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members wishing to record a

770 vote?

771 The clerk will report the total.

772 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 15 ayes

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773 and 8 noes.

774 *Mr. Duncan. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have
775 it, and the bill is agreed to.

776 The chair now calls up H.R. 1121, and asks the clerk to
777 report.

778 *The Clerk. H.R. 1121, to prohibit a moratorium on the
779 use of hydraulic fracturing.

780 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
781 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
782 amendment at any point.

783 So ordered.

784 [The bill follows:]

785

786 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

787

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

788 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any bipartisan amendments to the
789 bill?

790 Any other amendments to the bill?

791 The chair will now recognize the gentleman, which is
792 myself, for an opening statement on the bill.

793 H.R. 1121 prevents the President from implementing a
794 fracking ban. It prohibits the President from declaring a
795 moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing, unless
796 Congress authorizes such a moratorium.

797 It also expresses a sense of Congress that states should
798 maintain primacy for the regulation of oil and gas production
799 on state and private lands. That is where the success
800 happened in North Dakota, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and
801 other energy-producing states over the last decade or more.
802 Under current law, each state has primary regulatory
803 authority over oil and gas, natural gas production. This was
804 made clear in the Bipartisan Energy Policy Act of 2005.
805 State regulatory bodies are best informed to regulate
806 operations in their own state, and this bill reaffirms that.

807 America has been blessed with an abundance of natural
808 resources. The discovery of natural gas through the shale
809 revolution has launched America toward energy dominance.

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810 Innovation in the oil and gas sector has made the United
811 States a leader in not only energy production, but also
812 emissions reductions.

813 Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has continued to
814 wage war on American energy, which implicitly creates
815 uncertainty, causing energy investments to stall. President
816 Biden has promised to end oil and gas production in the
817 United States multiple times, and has followed through with
818 executive actions and regulations that have made energy more
819 difficult to produce.

820 Should he take his actions a step further and impose a
821 moratorium on fracking, energy prices would rise,
822 disproportionately hurting low-income and middle-class
823 Americans, and it will quickly force the United States into
824 being a net importer, and increase the cost of numerous
825 hydrocarbon-derived products: face masks, fertilizer,
826 diapers, plastics, renewables, electric vehicles, and there
827 is a whole litany of things that come out of a barrel of
828 hydrocarbon.

829 Placing a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing would mean
830 a \$900 billion increase in U.S. energy costs, 7.1 trillion in
831 potential losses to the U.S. economy through the year 2030.

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832 With the cost of living dramatically increasing for all
833 Americans, an increase in the cost of energy will most affect
834 the wallets of our most vulnerable citizens.

835 Natural gas is a clean, affordable, and reliable source
836 of energy. We should be increasing production, not
837 prohibiting that. The United States produces energy cleaner,
838 safer than nearly anywhere in the world, and we need policies
839 that reflect this reality instead of ones that undercut our
840 successes. We need to unleash more American energy, not the
841 other way around. More innovations in the energy sector like
842 we saw in the shale revolution is the best way to reduce
843 emissions, bring down prices, undercut the leverage of our
844 adversaries internationally.

845 So I urge support of H.R. 1121 to increase American
846 energy production and restore energy leadership. And with
847 that, I will yield back.

848 *Mr. Burgess. Mr. Chairman, would you yield to me?

849 *Mr. Duncan. Yes, I will yield.

850 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you. You know, it is difficult to
851 overstate the importance that the Energy Policy Act of 2005
852 had to natural gas production in this country. And I can't
853 believe that it is necessary to continue to try to protect

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854 that. But indeed, here we are today, and it is. And so I am
855 grateful that the chairman is providing that protection.

856 But I will just remind you, as we sat in this committee
857 in 2005, the United States was facing a shortage of natural
858 gas. The people from the American Chemistry Council were
859 coming into my office saying, "What are we going to do? We
860 won't have the feedstock for chemicals that we need to
861 manufacture.'" Farmers were coming in and saying, "What are
862 we going to do? We won't have the fertilizer that we need to
863 grow our crops.'" And all of this was addressed in the
864 Energy Policy Act of 2005 by placing a restriction on the
865 regulations that could be placed on this relatively new
866 technology.

867 It is important to me because the district that I
868 represent was kind of the birthplace for that, with Devon
869 Energy. The Barnett Shale was 8,000 feet below our feet, and
870 fracking made exposition of the gas from that shale possible.
871 And to be perfectly honest, in the 2008 recession we could
872 hardly feel it in my part of the north -- of north Texas,
873 because of the benefits that that shale gas brought our
874 economy, locally. That benefit accrues to my state, to our
875 country. We should not foreclose upon it easily.

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876 So I thank the gentleman for bringing his bill today.
877 It is critically important. It is the work that this
878 committee has provided, the foundation which we laid in the
879 Energy Policy Act of 2005. Let's not soon forget that.

880 I will yield back.

881 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back, and I yield
882 back the balance. Any other members wishing to be
883 recognized?

884 The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

885 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman --

886 *Mr. Duncan. For what purpose do you seek recognition?

887 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I seek recognition to speak.

888 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

889 *Mr. Veasey. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I just
890 want to say that I won't be supporting the amendment. I
891 think that a lot of this is really designed and aimed to hurt
892 the President. I don't think that is necessarily a good
893 debate over gas policy and energy security.

894 Congressman Burgess is right, that was the natural gas
895 well that started the fracking revolution in his district.
896 It was the Mitchell oil well -- gas well, excuse me, in his
897 district in Denton County that kind of kicked it all off.

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898 And we need to talk about, you know, some of these
899 things. But I think that the way that we are talking about
900 them today is not right. And I just wanted to make that
901 known, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for yielding to me.

902 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members seeking recognition?

903 Mr. Pfluger, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

904 *Mr. Pfluger. Well, Chairman, thank you for bringing
905 this extremely important bill.

906 When you look at the choices that Germany has made 20
907 years ago, when they decided to end fracking, they are now
908 coming to the United States of America, and they are asking
909 for our product because they don't have it. They are trying
910 to diversify away from Russian natural gas. And when you
911 look at what the shale revolution has done, we are over 40
912 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas.

913 I see several members on the other side of the aisle who
914 actually were in Midland last week. I would invite every
915 member to come, please come and see a well completion. I
916 invite you to come to my district. I was disappointed to not
917 have more when we had a field hearing.

918 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

919 *Mr. Pfluger. Sure.

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920 *Ms. DeGette. So I agree, these field hearings are very
921 important. And as I just mentioned to the chairman, this
922 field hearing was held without consultation during a recess
923 week, without consultation to the minority. And many of us
924 would have liked to have been at that field hearing. I
925 wouldn't have interrupted it to say this, but the gentleman
926 has now said it twice.

927 So next time we have a field hearing, if it is cleared
928 through my schedule, at least, I will be happy to join you.
929 And P.S., I have been to wells in Colorado, too. Thank you.

930 *Mr. Pfluger. Reclaiming my time, I invite anyone to
931 come at any point in time, regardless of whether we have a
932 field hearing or not.

933 But it is so critically important, what this industry
934 has done, not because the government has told them to do it
935 -- and I think this bill protects what we originally did
936 through private industry, not through the government, not
937 through government mandate, not through anything the EPA or
938 FERC or any of the other agencies said, but because private
939 industry wanted to make it more efficient, more affordable,
940 more reliable.

941 And now we are in a situation where, just this morning,

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942 the Embassy of Japan has said, "Can I please meet with you?"`
943 And I know the ranking member knows this very well, that the
944 Embassy of Japan said, "Can we please meet with you, because
945 we need LNG, we need product.'" That is how we do business
946 here in the United States. We cannot follow the path that
947 countries like Germany and others have gone down, where now,
948 20 years later, their policies have put their entire
949 populations into a real problem of not having affordable,
950 reliable energy.

951 I want to commend the chairman for an excellent bill
952 that we should not have to legislate. But unfortunately,
953 because of political climate, we do.

954 Once again, anybody on the other side of the aisle is
955 welcome to come to my district or any others where we do
956 this, and we do it better than anybody else in the world.
957 That is why we need to keep these American jobs here, and
958 continue not only to supply our needs, but those of our
959 partners and allies.

960 I yield back.

961 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield? Will the
962 gentleman yield?

963 Thank you. I remember in the 1990s, I was up in

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964 Abilene, north of Abilene, Texas, energy producing area, but
965 at that time wasn't really known for the energy that was
966 produced. As we quail-hunted through the area, I saw the
967 natural -- the pipelines from the oil well production. We
968 got to talking about energy. The gentleman I was hunting
969 with started talking about the oil that was trapped in the
970 shale. He picked up a piece of shale, and cracked it open,
971 and sat it on a flat rock in the sun. And he said, "We are
972 going to hunt around, and we are going to come back by this
973 area, and I want you to look at this rock when we come back
974 by.'`

975 We came back by an hour-and-a-half, two hours later.
976 The shale had been sitting in the sunshine. Oil was leaking
977 out of it, oil trapped in that shale. That is what the
978 hydraulic fracturing does, is it releases the oil in the
979 shale, holds that frac open so that oil can flow and be
980 pumped to the surface to be produced. That is what it is.
981 It is pretty simple.

982 But I thank the gentleman for pointing out that field
983 hearings are important. I want to thank the ranking member
984 for letting us know why they didn't attend. And I want to
985 encourage this committee, under our chairman, to continue

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986 doing more field hearings to educate us on both sides of the
987 aisle on issues that are important to the Energy Subcommittee
988 and to the Energy and Commerce full committee.

989 And with that, I will yield back to the gentleman, who
990 yields back, and --

991 *Mr. Cardenas. Mr. Pfluger, will you yield for the last
992 few seconds?

993 *Mr. Pfluger. Sure.

994 *Mr. Duncan. The time, Mr. Pfluger --

995 *Mr. Cardenas. Mr. Pfluger, will you yield?

996 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, sir.

997 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you so much. And by the way, you
998 were a gracious host, and I enjoyed going to Midland as one
999 of the few Democratic members that was able to clear his
1000 calendar at the last minute and make it.

1001 And I just wanted to let you know that that wasn't the
1002 -- I am sorry, but that wasn't the first time I went to
1003 Midland. The first time I went to Midland, I went all the
1004 way out there, a couple of plane flights, and then in a
1005 vehicle, et cetera, for a couple hours and went out to an
1006 actual rig, and actually got the workers there to explain to
1007 me what it was like working there, et cetera. So I

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1008 personally do appreciate the opportunity that it is, as an
1009 economic engine for that community.

1010 But also, I think that what we should be talking about
1011 in Congress is not only appetite, but responsibility in how
1012 we move forward.

1013 So thank you so much. Thank you for yielding.

1014 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time has expired. Any
1015 other members seeking recognition?

1016 Ms. Castor from Florida is recognized. For what purpose
1017 do you seek recognition?

1018 *Ms. Castor. To speak in opposition to the bill and to
1019 strike the last word.

1020 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized.

1021 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Protecting
1022 American Energy Production Act does not protect American
1023 interests. It does not protect the pocketbooks of the
1024 American people. It protects the profits of Big Oil and Gas.
1025 Big Oil and Gas, they are already making the largest profits
1026 in history.

1027 And it is clear now that, as gas prices spiked last year
1028 after Putin's invasion of Ukraine, oil and gas companies
1029 could have lowered the price at the pump. They could have

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1030 lowered electricity bills. We were in a time of crisis. We
1031 still are supporting our brothers and sisters in Ukraine from
1032 Putin's unprovoked invasion. But instead, they made a
1033 decision to gouge consumers.

1034 So that is why it is hard to look at the whole range of
1035 bills here today and say, gosh, this is really good news for
1036 American consumers, because it is not. It is really good
1037 news for the Big Oil CEOs and their shareholders. These
1038 bills would keep American consumers and businesses tied to
1039 volatile oil and gas prices over time. It does nothing to
1040 expand on cleaner, cheaper energy.

1041 What will lower cost and create jobs, help us build
1042 safer communities, healthier communities across America?
1043 That will be clean energy.

1044 What do we know about hydraulic fracking, hydraulic
1045 fracturing? There are many places across the country where
1046 it should not be happening. Often times, fracking poisons
1047 the water, it contaminates the air, especially if you are in
1048 proximity to the fracking operations. Proximity to fracking
1049 is associated with congenital heart defects, increased high
1050 risk of high-risk pregnancy and premature birth, worsening
1051 asthma, and increased rates of hospitalization for cardiac,

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1052 neurological, and cancer-related problems.

1053 When you are talking about fracking, you are also
1054 talking about methane. Methane accelerates the costly
1055 climate crisis. It is a more potent greenhouse gas than
1056 carbon dioxide over its first 100 years in the atmosphere,
1057 more -- fully, 86 times more potent over its first 20 years.
1058 Methane has been found to leak from fracking wells,
1059 equipment, and pipelines at rates that make it worse for the
1060 environment even than coal. Those leakage rates, if
1061 sustained, move us all the more closer to climate
1062 catastrophes.

1063 We are already suffering through higher costs across the
1064 board, driven by the warming planet. And when you double
1065 down here on fossil fuels, making it easier to drill and
1066 frack, and lifting the environmental and health safeguards,
1067 what you are saying to the American people and to businesses
1068 is, "Here is a bill, here is a higher bill, a higher-cost
1069 bill. You are going to have to pay for everything caused by
1070 climate change: drought, crop collapse, property insurance,
1071 just plain insurance back home because of the escalating
1072 risks of the climate crisis.'`

1073 What should we be doing is building on clean energy

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1074 resources. Clean energy is cheaper energy. And thank
1075 goodness that we have passed the Inflation Reduction Act that
1076 will help deploy cleaner, cheaper energy faster, and it will
1077 help lower energy bills for American families and businesses.

1078 For example, significant tax credits for solar energy,
1079 microgrid technology, expanded ITC, eligibility for
1080 interconnection cost, and wind and solar. In fact, in the
1081 months following President Biden's signing of the Inflation
1082 Reduction Act, we have seen about \$40 billion of investment
1083 across America in clean energy projects. And many of these
1084 projects are going into Republican states, red states. That
1085 is great. But this is how we are going to build energy
1086 security for the American people. It is how we are going to
1087 build a healthier society, not doubling down and giving away
1088 freebies to Big Oil and Gas.

1089 So I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and really
1090 turn a critical eye to a lot of these giveaways to Big Oil
1091 and Gas that we will be debating today.

1092 I yield back.

1093 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. For what
1094 purpose does the gentlelady from Washington seek recognition?

1095 *The Chair. To strike the last word.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1096 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognizes.

1097 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am reflecting
1098 on a congressional delegation led by former Chairman Fred
1099 Upton from this committee when we went to Europe back in the
1100 spring of 2015, in May of 2015, and several of the members on
1101 the committee were visiting in Europe at that time.

1102 Putin had taken Crimea the previous year. That winter
1103 he had turned off natural gas pipelines into Ukraine, and
1104 Ukraine was begging us for more natural gas. They had -- and
1105 we were inspired by their fight for independence and
1106 self-determination. And I was reminded -- and we saw
1107 firsthand -- how important energy was to that fight for
1108 independence and self-determination, and having energy from
1109 their partners, and allies not being dependent upon Putin.

1110 It was also on that trip that we met with the NATO
1111 general who explained to us that Putin was the one funding
1112 the NGOs in Europe that were anti-fracking, new technology
1113 from the United States of America that had unleashed American
1114 gas, the shale revolution. It was extraordinary. And we
1115 were celebrating in the United States of America that had
1116 brought down the cost of natural gas. It had actually been
1117 the driver in leading us in reducing carbon emissions.

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1118 Natural gas is -- probably one of the best things that
1119 we could do for the world is to unleash natural gas. And
1120 Putin was educating the Europeans as to the dangers of
1121 fracking. Yes, don't do fracking. And they didn't. And he
1122 was funding the NGOs that were educating the Europeans. So
1123 they didn't do fracking. And instead, Europe remained
1124 dependent upon Putin. Russia -- or -- and Ukraine needed the
1125 Russian natural gas.

1126 I share this because this is so important. This
1127 legislation is very important. This is a key part of
1128 American energy that is so important to our economy, our
1129 national security, American leadership, and supporting our
1130 allies around the world. And I am proud to support it.

1131 And I wanted to yield to the gentleman from Texas.

1132 *Mr. Pfluger. I thank the chairman.

1133 I was in Florida's 14th district on Tuesday of last
1134 week, which is Tampa Bay, and the port director and many of
1135 the folks that were there mentioned how grateful they were
1136 because 45 percent of Florida's oil and gas comes through
1137 Tampa Bay, through the Port of Tampa Bay. And I think the
1138 residents of Florida -- and I forget the exact population, 20
1139 million maybe -- are very grateful for the fact that they

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1140 have this energy that comes through. That is all coming from
1141 Port Arthur and Corpus Christi, Houston, Louisiana. Those
1142 products are flowing through.

1143 And I would like to push back on the fact that hydraulic
1144 fracturing is poisonous to human beings, that it is poisonous
1145 to the earth, that the chemicals that are used in it and in
1146 these -- and I would like to invite my colleague who has said
1147 that to come and see the hydraulic fracturing, to actually
1148 taste the chemicals that are used to mix with water and sand,
1149 because you can do that, because they are that safe. And so
1150 this notion that they are actually poisoning humans or
1151 causing congenital heart failure is false. It is not true.

1152 There was a quote recently that said Exxon made more
1153 money than God, but not near as much as Apple. That was from
1154 the President of the United States, from President Biden.
1155 And on April 20th of 2020, I don't see -- didn't see the
1156 outcry at oil going to -30-plus dollars a barrel, but it did.
1157 And yet they have survived. And the reinvestment into this
1158 industry has not happened because of the ESG environment that
1159 we face, which I am certain that we will get to.

1160 I think I would, at this point, yield to my friend from
1161 North Dakota.

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1162 *Mr. Armstrong. We -- thank you, Madam Chair. And, you
1163 know, we talk a lot about this, and it is cheaper and more
1164 reliable.

1165 I just have to point out again everything is cheaper and
1166 more reliable if you give it grants, subsidies, and tax
1167 credits. We have created a Federal tax structure in which
1168 you can sell an electron onto the grid from a renewable
1169 source for less than it costs to produce. Everything is
1170 cheaper if you throw billions and billions of Federal dollars
1171 at it.

1172 And when you are talking about places where I live and
1173 where my constituents live as some kind of toxic environment,
1174 I think we should do another field hearing. I think we
1175 should go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and look
1176 at a cobalt mine. Let's go drink downstream from a Malaysian
1177 lithium mine, and talk about what is and isn't clean energy.

1178 And with that, I yield back.

1179 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady's time has expired. Any
1180 other members seeking recognition?

1181 Mr. Curtis, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

1182 *Mr. Curtis. To strike the last word.

1183 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

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1184 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you. I would like to take just a
1185 minute to address the comments that we heard from my
1186 colleague from Florida. And if I heard correctly, the
1187 comment was that we are doing this because we want to help
1188 Big Oil.

1189 And the first thing I have to ask myself, like, who is
1190 Big Oil? I am not sure exactly, but we hear that term thrown
1191 around all the time. It feels to me that it is part of the
1192 demonization of the many good men and women in large and
1193 small corporations around the world that, for decades and
1194 decades, have contributed to our quality of life and our
1195 ability to stay warm in the winter and cold in the summer. I
1196 know personally in my district they don't see themselves as
1197 Big Oil. They see themselves as contributing to the
1198 productivity of this country.

1199 I would advocate that our purpose for the bills this
1200 morning is not to help Big Oil -- I don't know any of us that
1201 really care about that -- but it is to avoid what has
1202 happened in Europe. And you have heard that alluded to here
1203 this morning. A year ago I found myself in Europe several
1204 days before the war broke out, and while the war was breaking
1205 out, and several days after the war broke out. And I heard

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1206 some of the things that have been referred to today.

1207 You know, just 15 years ago Europe produced as much
1208 natural gas as Russia. Just 15 years ago. And they decided
1209 that they weren't going to frack. So today they buy fracked
1210 natural gas from Russia. They are dependent on their enemy
1211 for fuel. They have an unstable, unreliable source. They
1212 are paying exorbitant amounts for that fuel. And I can't
1213 speak for all my colleagues, but that is why I am supporting
1214 these bills today. I want to make sure that we don't go down
1215 a path that is -- that robs us of our energy independence,
1216 that robs us of affordable, reliable power and, at the end of
1217 the day, like Europe, produces more greenhouse gas emissions
1218 than before they started down this road.

1219 I think I speak for me and my colleagues that we want to
1220 be reliable, we want to be affordable, and we want to be
1221 clean. And that is the intent of our bills today.

1222 And with that, I yield back my time.

1223 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members seeking recognition?

1224 The gentleman from Alabama, for what purpose do you seek
1225 recognition?

1226 *Mr. Palmer. I would like to speak in support of the
1227 bill, and I move to strike the last word.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1228 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1229 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been in
1230 so many of these hearings, and I keep hearing people talk
1231 about the -- what the existential threat is. I just want to
1232 let you know that I think the policies of this Administration
1233 have become an existential threat not only to our economic
1234 security, but to our national security.

1235 The war in Ukraine did not create the energy crisis,
1236 despite what some of our colleagues might believe. It
1237 exposed it.

1238 To my colleague from Utah's points there, 15 years ago
1239 Europe was producing as much natural gas as Russia was. But
1240 over the last decade, decade and a half, they have allowed
1241 their hydrocarbon infrastructure to go into decline. Today
1242 Germany's electricity prices are three or four times higher
1243 than they are here. In the UK, energy consumption by --
1244 residential energy consumption has declined by 10 percent,
1245 not because they have become more efficient, Mr. Chairman,
1246 but because they can't afford it. That is where this country
1247 is heading.

1248 There are four things that the modern world depends on:
1249 cement, steel, plastic, and fertilizer. Natural gas is

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1250 essential to all four; 80 percent of ammonia nitrate -- of
1251 the cost of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, which we depend on
1252 to produce our food, is natural gas.

1253 It is a national security issue to be taking down our
1254 hydrocarbon infrastructure. China is building a coal-fired
1255 plant 1 about every 2 weeks, but they have built 14 outside
1256 of China. They are bringing power to sub-Saharan African
1257 countries. They are moving into Latin America, and we are
1258 letting it happen. And we are sitting here with this ESG
1259 mentality, this attitude that we are going to go completely
1260 renewable. And from an engineering and technological
1261 perspective, it will not happen. We are undermining our own
1262 national security and the national security of the Western
1263 Hemisphere by doing this.

1264 I applaud you for bringing this bill. We need to secure
1265 our hydrocarbon infrastructure. We are not depending on any
1266 other nation for our energy security. We have it right here.
1267 But if we go to 100 percent renewables, we will be dependent
1268 on China. And if there is anything that we can learn from
1269 the war in Ukraine, it is that no nation should be dependent
1270 on an adversarial nation for its energy supply. It becomes a
1271 massive national security issue.

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1272 And I will yield back.

1273 *Mr. Johnson. Will the gentleman yield?

1274 *Mr. Palmer. I will be happy to yield.

1275 *Mr. Johnson. I thank the gentleman for yielding. You
1276 know, we set out in this session to find common-sense
1277 solutions to address the energy crisis that we have. And I
1278 think a good faith effort is being made to seek bipartisan
1279 solutions in that effort.

1280 But I tell you, when we have members that make absurd
1281 allegations that hydraulic fracturing contaminates the water
1282 table when, in fact, there hasn't been an EPA administrator
1283 since the Obama Administration that has agreed with that --
1284 in fact, they said there is no proof that hydraulic
1285 fracturing contaminates the water, it is right the opposite.
1286 It has proven very safe, and has been for a very long time.

1287 I would just urge my colleagues, if we want to have
1288 substantive, bipartisan negotiations to come to bipartisan
1289 solutions to address both energy and climate issues, then we
1290 need to be willing to sit down and have an honest
1291 conversation, and stop acting like environmental activists in
1292 the process.

1293 And with that, I yield back.

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1294 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, I will just conclude with
1295 this. We keep hearing what the science says, and the science
1296 that I am reading is different from what I am hearing. What
1297 I am hearing is political science.

1298 I just want to point out since 1970, because of natural
1299 gas, our carbon dioxide emissions have gone down 32 percent.
1300 We have also reduced the emissions of the 6 criteria gases
1301 that the EPA tracks by 86 percent, even though our economy
1302 has grown by 142 percent. We are on the right track with the
1303 changes we are making, and the use of hydrocarbons, and we
1304 should stay on that track.

1305 With that, Mr. Chairman, unless someone wants the last
1306 10 seconds, I yield back.

1307 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any other
1308 members seeking recognition?

1309 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
1310 1121 to the full committee.

1311 All those in favor, say aye.

1312 Opposed, no.

1313 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it.

1314 *Voice. Request a recorded vote, please.

1315 *Mr. Duncan. A recorded vote has been requested. The

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1316 clerk will call the roll.
1317 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?
1318 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
1319 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.
1320 Rep. Latta?
1321 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1322 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.
1323 Rep. Guthrie?
1324 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1325 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.
1326 Rep. Griffith?
1327 [No response.]
1328 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?
1329 *Mr. Johnson. Aye, votes aye.
1330 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.
1331 Rep. Bucshon?
1332 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
1333 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.
1334 Rep. Walberg?
1335 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
1336 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
1337 Rep. Palmer?

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1338 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1339 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.
1340 Rep. Curtis?
1341 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
1342 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
1343 Rep. Lesko?
1344 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
1345 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
1346 Rep. Pence?
1347 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1348 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong?
1349 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.
1350 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.
1351 Rep. Weber?
1352 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1353 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
1354 Rep. Balderson?
1355 *Mr. Balderson. Yes.
1356 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
1357 Rep. Pfluger?
1358 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1359 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.

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1360 Rep. Rodgers?
1361 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
1362 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
1363 Rep. Duncan?
1364 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
1365 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
1366 Rep. DeGette?
1367 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1368 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
1369 Rep. Peters?
1370 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
1371 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes no.
1372 Rep. Fletcher?
1373 [No response.]
1374 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui?
1375 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1376 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
1377 Rep. Tonko?
1378 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1379 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
1380 Rep. Veasey?
1381 *Mr. Veasey. No.

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1382 *The Clerk. Rep. Veasey votes no.
1383 Rep. Kuster?
1384 *Ms. Kuster. [Inaudible.]
1385 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.
1386 Rep. Schrier?
1387 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
1388 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
1389 Rep. Castor?
1390 *Ms. Castor. No.
1391 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.
1392 Rep. Sarbanes?
1393 [No response.]
1394 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
1395 *Mr. Cardenas. [Inaudible.]
1396 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.
1397 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
1398 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. [Inaudible.]
1399 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes no.
1400 Rep. Pallone?
1401 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1402 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.
1403 *Mr. Pence. Mr. Chair, how am I recorded?

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1404 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Pence recorded?

1405 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

1406 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1407 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

1408 *Mr. Duncan. Any member wishing to change their vote?

1409 The clerk will report the total.

1410 [Pause.]

1411 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 16 ayes

1412 and 11 noes.

1413 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed

1414 to. The chair will now call up H.R. 1085, and ask the clerk

1415 to report the bill.

1416 *The Clerk. H.R. 1085, to require the Secretary of

1417 Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a

1418 report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United

1419 States, and for other purposes.

1420 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of

1421 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for

1422 amendment any point.

1423 So ordered.

1424 [The bill follows:]

1425

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1426 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1427

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1428 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any bipartisan amendments to the
1429 bill?

1430 Any other amendments to the bill?

1431 The chair will now recognize the author of the bill, Mr.
1432 Latta, to discuss the bill for five minutes.

1433 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1434 strike the last word.

1435 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1436 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much for holding this markup
1437 today, and I am proud to offer H.R. 1085, the REFINE Act,
1438 which aims to help address the problems we are facing when it
1439 comes to boosting petrochemical refining capacity in our
1440 nation.

1441 In the last three years, North America has lost over a
1442 million barrels of fuel per day in refining capacity. At the
1443 same time, demand for energy has skyrocketed. This has
1444 stretched our refining -- refineries thin, and forced them to
1445 run at close to 95 percent of total capacity. We need to
1446 ensure refining capacity can keep up with the demand, and
1447 keep prices affordable for all Americans.

1448 The REFINER Act would direct the National Petroleum
1449 Council to examine the importance of petrochemical refineries

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1450 to energy security, and issue a report that contains an
1451 analysis of these refineries and opportunities to expand that
1452 capacity.

1453 This legislation will give us the blueprint we need to
1454 reverse our nation's losses in the refining industry, and
1455 restore our ability to meet the energy needs of the American
1456 people.

1457 I urge my colleagues to approve H.R. 1085 and, Mr.
1458 Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

1459 *Mr. Duncan. Any further discussion on the bill?

1460 Mr. Pence, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

1461 *Mr. Pence. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1462 word.

1463 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1464 *Mr. Pence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I urge my
1465 colleagues to support H.R. 1085, the REFINER Act, which I
1466 cosponsored with Congressman Latta.

1467 Petroleum is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy. Whether
1468 it is for manufacturing facilities, trucking industry, or our
1469 farmers, petrochemicals are the bedrock of Indiana's economic
1470 growth. Refineries across the country have repeatedly told
1471 Congress and the Administration that they are already

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1472 reaching maximum capacity.

1473 Instead of alleviating these pressures, lower prices for
1474 hardworking Americans, the Biden Administration is slapping
1475 regulations onto oil and gas companies and deterring
1476 necessary investment. The President falsely blames the
1477 petroleum industry for high energy prices facing Hoosiers and
1478 all Americans. After two long years, it has become clear
1479 that the find-and-fine approach of this Administration is
1480 wrong for Hoosier communities, and puts Americans at risk.

1481 The REFINER Act is a critical step to putting our nation
1482 back on track to a reliable, affordable, and secure energy
1483 future. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill, and I
1484 yield back.

1485 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further
1486 discussion on the bill?

1487 Seeing none, the chair -- the question now occurs on
1488 forwarding H.R. 1085 to the full committee.

1489 All those in favor, say aye.

1490 Opposed, no.

1491 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman? If we could have a roll call
1492 vote --

1493 *Mr. Duncan. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have

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1494 it.

1495 *Mr. Latta. -- Mr. Chairman.

1496 *Mr. Duncan. Asked for a roll call vote?

1497 *Mr. Latta. A roll call.

1498 *Mr. Duncan. A roll call vote has been requested. The
1499 clerk will report the -- will call the roll.

1500 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

1501 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

1502 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.

1503 Rep. Latta?

1504 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1505 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

1506 Rep. Guthrie?

1507 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

1508 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.

1509 Rep. Griffith?

1510 [No response.]

1511 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

1512 [No response.]

1513 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon?

1514 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1515 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1516 Rep. Walberg?
1517 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
1518 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
1519 Rep. Palmer?
1520 [No response.]
1521 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis?
1522 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
1523 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
1524 Rep. Lesko?
1525 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
1526 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
1527 Rep. Pence?
1528 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1529 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.
1530 Rep. Armstrong?
1531 [No response.]
1532 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber?
1533 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1534 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
1535 Rep. Balderson?
1536 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1537 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.

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1538 Rep. Pfluger?
1539 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1540 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
1541 Rep. Rodgers?
1542 *The Chair. Aye.
1543 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
1544 Rep. Duncan?
1545 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
1546 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
1547 Rep. DeGette?
1548 *Ms. DeGette. [Inaudible.]
1549 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
1550 Rep. Peters?
1551 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
1552 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes no.
1553 Rep. Fletcher?
1554 [No response.]
1555 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui?
1556 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1557 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
1558 Rep. Tonko?
1559 *Mr. Tonko. No.

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1560 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
1561 Rep. Veasey?
1562 *Mr. Veasey. [Inaudible.]
1563 *The Clerk. Rep. Veasey votes no.
1564 Rep. Kuster?
1565 *Ms. Kuster. [Inaudible.]
1566 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.
1567 Rep. Schrier?
1568 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
1569 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
1570 Rep. Castor?
1571 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
1572 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.
1573 Rep. Sarbanes?
1574 [No response.]
1575 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
1576 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
1577 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.
1578 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
1579 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. No.
1580 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes no.
1581 Rep. Pallone?

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1582 *Mr. Pallone. [Inaudible.]

1583 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

1584 *Mr. Duncan. Have all members voted?

1585 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman?

1586 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson.

1587 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Johnson --

1588 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson is not recorded.

1589 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.

1590 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.

1591 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1592 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1593 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1594 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

1595 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Armstrong reported?

1596 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong is not recorded.

1597 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

1598 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

1599 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mrs. Fletcher?

1600 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher is not recorded.

1601 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes yes.

1602 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

1603 *Mr. Duncan. Have all members voted?

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1604 The clerk will report the total.

1605 [Pause.]

1606 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 17 ayes
1607 and 11 noes.

1608 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
1609 to.

1610 The chair will next call up H.R. 1058, and ask the clerk
1611 to report the bill.

1612 *The Clerk. H.R. 1058, to establish a more uniform,
1613 transparent, and modern process to authorize the
1614 construction, connection, and operation and maintenance of
1615 international border crossing facilities for the import and
1616 export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of
1617 electricity.

1618 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
1619 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1620 amendment any time.

1621 So ordered.

1622 [The bill follows:]

1623

1624 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1625

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1626 *Mr. Duncan. The chair will recognize Mr. Armstrong for
1627 -- the sponsor of the bill -- for five minutes.

1628 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have seen
1629 firsthand the consequences of having a cross-border
1630 infrastructure approval process that is not dependable for
1631 projects which take years to complete from conception to
1632 operation: capital is chased out of the market,
1633 infrastructure is strained, and we have supply chain
1634 bottlenecks that hamper our economy.

1635 The Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act
1636 would create a uniform and transparent process for the
1637 construction, connection, and operation of international
1638 energy border-crossing facilities by replacing the existing
1639 presidential permit structure with a straightforward and
1640 understandable statutory process.

1641 H.R. 1058 would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory
1642 Commission to review applications for cross-border oil and
1643 natural gas pipelines, and similarly authorize the Department
1644 of Energy to review applications for cross-border electric
1645 transmission facilities.

1646 The committee has a long history with the Promoting
1647 Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act. Similar versions of

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1648 this bill have been subject to committee hearings, markups,
1649 and passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan
1650 support. This committee has heard testimony from FERC,
1651 stakeholders, and expert witnesses about the implementation
1652 and benefit associated with this bill.

1653 That said, I want to again point out what this bill does
1654 not do. This bill has nothing in it that would repeal the
1655 applicable environmental protection status -- statutes
1656 governing pipeline approvals. Again, nothing in this bill
1657 addresses environmental reviews.

1658 Additionally, the bill does not impact the ability of
1659 states or Federal agencies to carry out their statutory
1660 responsibilities for energy infrastructure deployment.

1661 I urge a yes vote on the Promoting Cross-border Energy
1662 Infrastructure Act because we need to streamline the approval
1663 process and implement reasonable timelines for our
1664 consideration, and I yield back.

1665 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further
1666 discussion?

1667 Mr. Pallone from New Jersey is recognized.

1668 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1669 word.

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1670 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1671 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I speak in opposition to
1672 H.R. 1058, the Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure
1673 Act.

1674 This bill would overhaul the presidential permit process
1675 for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines, along with
1676 transmission wires, and create a presumption that any cross-
1677 border energy transmission is in the public interest.

1678 It would also resurrect the specter of Keystone
1679 pipeline, which has been dead for nearly two years now. When
1680 Republicans brought this bill up the last time they were in
1681 power, they made no effort to hide the linkage between the
1682 pipeline and this bill, nor do they do so now. This bill
1683 would provide a process for that project -- that is Keystone
1684 -- to once again rise from the dead and seek a certificate to
1685 once again threaten hundreds of communities across the nation
1686 with dangerous oil spills and contaminated water.

1687 But even setting aside Keystone, this bill is bad
1688 policy. It asks FERC and the Department of Energy to forego
1689 their traditional consultations with the Departments of State
1690 and Defense, and instead step far outside their bounds as
1691 energy regulators and involve themselves in international

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1692 affairs. It asks FERC to site oil pipelines and activity the
1693 agency has never had control over without any additional
1694 resources to build the staff capacity for how to do that.

1695 The bill is also, frankly, unclear. It is unclear about
1696 what length of a pipeline or transmission line these new
1697 certificates of crossing it creates would apply to. It
1698 creates contradictory deadlines for approving natural gas
1699 imports and exports to and from Canada and Mexico, in one
1700 section saying an application must be approved within 30
1701 days, an impossible deadline to meet, and in another saying
1702 that an agency must take action 120 days after the NEPA
1703 review has concluded.

1704 And these are not new issues. This bill was marked up
1705 in this subcommittee six years ago, and Democrats raised some
1706 of these same concerns then. They were ignored, and the bill
1707 before us today is nearly identical to the one that came
1708 before us back then. And the previous version of the bill
1709 passed the House, but only to die in the Senate. And I think
1710 this bill is destined to suffer the same fate.

1711 I don't know why our Republican majority insists on
1712 using valuable committee time to push ideas that didn't even
1713 have a chance when Republicans controlled the House and the

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1714 Senate and the presidency. So I don't think this is serious.

1715 And with that, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill,
1716 and I yield back my time, Mr. Chairman.

1717 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. For what
1718 purpose does Mr. Walberg seek recognition?

1719 *Mr. Walberg. I have an amendment at the desk.

1720 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman has an amendment at the
1721 desk. The clerk will report the amendment.

1722 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1058, offered by Rep.
1723 Walberg. Page eight, after line three, insert the following:
1724 Prohibition on revocation of presidential permits.
1725 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the president may
1726 not revoke a presidential permit or similar permit issued
1727 pursuant to executive order number 13337, executive order
1728 number 11423, executive order number 12038, executive order
1729 number 10485, or any other executive order for the
1730 construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil
1731 or natural gas pipeline, or electric transmission facility,
1732 or any border crossing facility thereof, unless such
1733 revocation is authorized by an act of Congress.

1734 [The amendment of Mr. Walberg follows:]

1735

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1736 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1737

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1738 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Walberg is recognized to explain his
1739 amendment.

1740 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment
1741 would add complementary language from my legislation, H.R.
1742 1197, the Protecting International Pipelines for Energy
1743 Security, or PIPES, Act.

1744 The amendment prohibits the president from revoking any
1745 presidential permit or authorization for the construction,
1746 operation, or maintenance of an oil, natural gas pipeline,
1747 electric transmission facility, or any cross-border facility.

1748 Our energy and national security should not be subject
1749 to the whims of the executive branch. We saw the
1750 consequences of this in 2021, when President Biden
1751 unilaterally revoked a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline,
1752 halting the \$9 billion project that was meant to carry
1753 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Canada to the
1754 United States.

1755 The same year, there were reports that the President was
1756 considering shutting down Line 5 in Michigan, which carries
1757 540,000 barrels per day of light crude oil and natural gas
1758 that heats homes, powers businesses, and fills up vehicles
1759 across the Midwest.

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1760 Remember, this doesn't mean that the crude oil and
1761 natural gas are not being brought into the United States, but
1762 rather, they must travel by rail or truck, which are both
1763 more expensive, slower, and less safe -- even as we have seen
1764 in Ohio just recently, tragically -- than pipelines. If this
1765 was really about protecting the environment and lowering
1766 costs, the Biden Administration would be working with us to
1767 modernize existing pipelines and build new ones.

1768 Thankfully, the legislation offered by my friend, Mr.
1769 Armstrong, will actually help us accomplish this by
1770 establishing a more uniform and transparent process to
1771 authorize construction and maintenance of cross-border energy
1772 facilities. It rightfully takes the approval power away from
1773 the politics of presidential permits, and gives it to FERC
1774 and DoE.

1775 My amendment would place revocation power only with
1776 Congress. Together, our two bills ensure that who sits in
1777 the White House doesn't hinder America's energy security.

1778 I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment and
1779 the underlying bill, and I yield back.

1780 *Mr. Latta. Will the gentleman yield?

1781 *Mr. Walberg. I yield.

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1782 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you. I appreciate my friend
1783 from Michigan's amendment.

1784 When talking about Line 5, I think it is really
1785 important, because this is a line that not only benefits
1786 Canada and Michigan, but also Ohio. And I think, as I
1787 remember when we were talking about Line 5 in the past, one
1788 of the things, if we did not have Line 5, it would take about
1789 2,200 truckloads a day to move that same product, which we
1790 don't have. And we know that the pipeline is safer.

1791 So I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, and I yield
1792 back to the gentleman.

1793 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back?

1794 *Mr. Walberg. I would be -- yield to -- I would be glad
1795 to yield to my colleague from North Dakota, Mr. Armstrong.

1796 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you, Mr. Walberg, for offering
1797 this amendment to my bill, because the -- preventing the
1798 president from undermining existing permits is essential for
1799 providing long-term regulatory certainty needed by energy
1800 infrastructure developers.

1801 This amendment provides clarity for projects that are
1802 already operating or approved under the presidential permit
1803 structure, and complements the underlying text of the bill,

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1804 and I appreciate the amendment.

1805 *Mr. Walberg. I thank the gentleman. And unless
1806 anybody else wants it, I yield back.

1807 *Mr. Duncan. I think Mr. Weber wants some.

1808 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1809 words.

1810 *Mr. Duncan. We are going to hold that thought. I will
1811 go to Mr. Cardenas first.

1812 *Mr. Cardenas. I move to strike the last word on the
1813 amendment, Mr. Chairman.

1814 *Mr. Duncan. -- recognized.

1815 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you so much. Mr. Chairman, I
1816 speak in opposition to this amendment.

1817 This amendment is nothing more than an attempt to bring
1818 back a pipeline project, a pipeline project whose very
1819 investors have declared completely dead for nearly two years
1820 now.

1821 Let's dispense with everything else and be clear. This
1822 amendment is a pro-Keystone XL pipeline amendment. But it is
1823 also worse than just that. This amendment would freeze in
1824 place any cross-border energy infrastructure that ever
1825 received a presidential permit over the last 50 years. The

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1826 agencies would not have the authority to revoke or amend the
1827 permits. The president would not have the authority to
1828 revoke or amend the permits. Any project, no matter how
1829 mistaken, no matter how misguided, no matter how many issues
1830 had come up since its permit was issued, would be allowed to
1831 operate in perpetuity without agency review.

1832 This amendment represents a brazen handout to Big Oil
1833 and Gas at the cost of American border communities across our
1834 country. It is a retroactive lottery ticket to any company
1835 that received a presidential permit over the last 50 years.
1836 And with that I urge opposition to the amendment, and I yield
1837 back.

1838 [Pause.]

1839 *Mr. Cardenas. Okay, I yield back.

1840 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1841 The chair -- for what purpose does Mr. Weber seek
1842 recognition?

1843 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

1844 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1845 *Mr. Weber. I am getting tired of hearing all the scare
1846 tactics my colleagues on the other side of -- that pipelines
1847 are going to actually be dangerous for communities because of

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1848 all the oil spills, to quote -- almost quote one of the
1849 comments I have heard today.

1850 Keystone pipeline comes into my district. It carries
1851 830,000 barrels of oil a day. Representative Latta had a
1852 great bill. He ended -- he pointed out that we were a
1853 million barrels a day down in oil for refining. That one
1854 pipeline would cover 80 percent of the need.

1855 And all this rhetoric about pipelines are dangerous,
1856 look it up for yourself. The pipeline industry has a 99.99-
1857 something safety rating. You don't get that from the rail.
1858 You don't get that from trucking. It is the safest way to
1859 move product. It is about energy security, it is about
1860 national security, it is about economic security, it is about
1861 jobs for people, and making sure that America remains
1862 foremost the safest and most viable country in the world,
1863 especially if it ever comes to a war that we need energy for.

1864 So I would urge all of our colleagues to support this
1865 amendment, and I will yield to my friend from North Dakota.

1866 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you. And while not speaking for
1867 anybody else on this side of the aisle, I think this is a
1868 perfect example of the different governing viewpoints.

1869 I probably understand the onshore oil and gas industry

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1870 as well as anybody in Congress. And I know full well we
1871 can't resurrect a pipeline. It is a northern border
1872 expansion of an existing pipeline that only one company can
1873 build. Republicans in Congress can't build it. Democrats in
1874 Congress can't build it. The government shouldn't build it.

1875 But this isn't the only project with our closest ally
1876 that is existing and wanting to be built. And the reality
1877 is, by dealing with this in something that takes 10 to 12
1878 years to come to completion -- it should be clear, too, there
1879 was nothing unique about the Keystone XL pipeline, other than
1880 it was probably the most vetted pipeline in the history of
1881 the country. The uniqueness to it is it is the only one the
1882 President could shut down with a stroke of a pen, the only
1883 one. And that is what happened. And that project is over,
1884 and that is up to a particular company if they choose to
1885 resurrect that, if the law and the policy exists in a place
1886 where they would like it to be.

1887 But there are a lot of different projects with our
1888 allies to the north. I border them for the entire northern
1889 border of my state. There are our closest ally, there are
1890 our best friend. It is old school Monroe Doctrine, and it
1891 takes us from using somebody who we have never been at war

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1892 with, never been in a conflict with, and -- as opposed to our
1893 strategic ally -- or strategic adversaries on the world
1894 stage. So as we talk about this and we continue to move
1895 forward, the next bill has something to do with the Keystone
1896 XL. This has to do with being able to create a relationship
1897 with our closest ally to the north.

1898 And anybody want to know why we don't want a public need
1899 determined project being determined by the Administration?
1900 We can talk about the Keystone XL. Because on November 3rd
1901 of 2015, then-Secretary of State John Kerry determined that
1902 the Keystone XL project was not in the public interest
1903 because there was a perception among foreigners that the
1904 project would increase greenhouse gases, and that it didn't
1905 matter whether that perception was actually accurate.

1906 In Secretary Kerry's opinion, the decision would
1907 undercut the credibility of influence of the United States.
1908 Never mind that the project actually didn't increase
1909 greenhouse gases, never mind that Canadian drilling
1910 requirements meet or exceed our own Federal requirements,
1911 never mind that it prioritized relationships with our
1912 strategic adversaries as our closest ally and neighbor.

1913 That is why we can't have nice things, and that is why

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1914 this bill is necessary. And that is why this bill is
1915 necessary for infrastructure projects now and in the future.
1916 And it actually doesn't resurrect the Keystone XL pipeline,
1917 because Republicans understand that the government is never
1918 going to build that.

1919 And with that, I yield back,

1920 *Mr. Walberg. Would the gentleman yield?

1921 *Mr. Armstrong. I would.

1922 *Mr. Walberg. I appreciate that. It is about Line 5,
1923 though, which is a project still in place. And right now the
1924 Canadian company has agreed to take the Line 5 and upgrade it
1925 by making a tunnel 200 feet under Lake Michigan, Lake Huron,
1926 the Mackinac Straits, a tunnel that will completely
1927 encapsulate Line 5, make it impossible to spill in the Great
1928 Lakes, and also make a way for communications cables, et
1929 cetera, to go through that same tunnel and to be manned and
1930 cared for. So they want to improve it.

1931 But this President, our governor, and others want to end
1932 Line 5. It is wrong. This bill will encourage expansion of
1933 better pipelines, safer pipelines. and more security for our
1934 country.

1935 I yield back.

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1936 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time is expired. For what
1937 purpose does Mrs. Fletcher seek recognition?

1938 *Mrs. Fletcher. I move to strike the last word.

1939 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized.

1940 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
1941 want to speak on the amendment, and then briefly on the
1942 underlying bill, as well, because on this amendment I agree
1943 that the revocation of the pipeline permit for the Keystone
1944 pipeline was not the right decision. I said that at the
1945 time. I shared that view with the Administration.

1946 And the thing that I hear most from my constituents when
1947 it comes to these issues is that we need regulatory
1948 certainty; we need the ability to plan; we need to know, when
1949 investing in multi-billion-dollar projects that take many,
1950 many years to construct, we need to be able to have a process
1951 and a system that works, that allows the planning to go on.
1952 And so I intend to support this amendment to the bill. And I
1953 think it is important to understand that.

1954 But I also am frustrated that we are doing this sort of
1955 this way, because I think we need to tackle permitting reform
1956 more broadly. That is something else that I have been
1957 working on. I was disappointed we couldn't get it done in

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1958 the last Congress. And certainly, I think it is really
1959 important that we work together on both sides of the aisle.
1960 I think there is a lot of interest in permitting reform, and
1961 I know that I have raised the issue many times.

1962 I think many people on this side of the aisle would like
1963 to work with you on permitting reform, and to make sure that
1964 we are doing that so we can do as -- what Mr. Armstrong said,
1965 streamline the process, create a process we can rely on for
1966 all forms of energy infrastructure. It is hugely important.

1967 On the underlying bill here, I agree with so many of the
1968 points that Mr. Armstrong made, and I am not going to go back
1969 over all of them, but I do have some concerns about this
1970 bill. And in particular, as Mr. Armstrong just mentioned,
1971 the importance of having the input of the State Department,
1972 the geopolitics around energy production, the importance of
1973 the involvement of those with expertise about our national
1974 security.

1975 And what I see in this bill right now, as it is written,
1976 is really deferring those decisions, leaving out the
1977 Department of State, sending everything to the FERC. And I
1978 have some concerns about that. So I intend to vote no on the
1979 underlying bill at this time, and would love the opportunity

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1980 to work with Mr. Armstrong and others to address some of
1981 these concerns about the bill as it moves forward, because I
1982 really do think that it is important that we work in a
1983 bipartisan way on this committee, on these issues.

1984 And if we can accomplish permitting reform in this
1985 Congress, it will be an incredible accomplishment that will
1986 help move our country forward on all forms of energy. I
1987 think that is something we all should agree on and,
1988 hopefully, we can accomplish in our committee.

1989 So with that, I yield back.

1990 *Mr. Pfluger. Will the gentlelady yield?

1991 *Mrs. Fletcher. Sure, I will yield to Mr. Pfluger.

1992 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you for mentioning regulatory
1993 certainty. I couldn't agree with you more.

1994 It has been said in this hearing that Big Oil -- and I
1995 am still trying to figure out who that is, because I know
1996 individuals who are not, you know, in big companies that are
1997 doing this -- but it has been mentioned that Big Oil was
1998 gouging the American public. Regulatory certainty is the
1999 number-one reason that this industry is unable to reinvest,
2000 recapitalize, put more back into the system. And I think
2001 this particular bill by Mr. Armstrong and the amendment

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2002 actually highlight that very well.

2003 And I couldn't agree with you more. I would love to
2004 work with you on permitting reform, because when we talk
2005 about lowering the price, increasing the supply, making
2006 affordable, reliable energy actually come back into the
2007 system, it does revolve around the certainty. It is actually
2008 the lack of certainty. The only certainty we have right now
2009 is that this Administration is against the industry. That is
2010 the only certainty that our industry knows.

2011 And so therefore, every CEO that I talk to, every small
2012 business that is associated with the service, with the
2013 midstream and the E&P, or down to the refineries where your
2014 district is, they are 100 percent certain that the
2015 Administration is against them. So this -- I think this bill
2016 highlights a very important factor and, hopefully, leads us
2017 into permitting reform, which is exactly where we need to go.

2018 I will yield back to you.

2019 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Pfluger. And I just
2020 want to respond.

2021 Once again, I agree with several of the things you said,
2022 but not everything. I don't think the Administration is
2023 against the industry, and I don't think that Democrats are

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2024 against the industry. I think we have different policy views
2025 sometimes on how to get things done.

2026 But I know for a fact that the members of the White
2027 House have met with people in my district who are in the
2028 industry, who are asking questions about how we can deal with
2029 refining issues, how we can deal with capacity issues, how we
2030 can try to work together.

2031 Certainly, there have been a lot of things said that I
2032 don't agree with, and I try to call those out every time. I
2033 represent a lot of people who work very hard in this
2034 industry. But I think we all want to see reliable energy,
2035 and we want to see an above -- all-of-the-above approach, and
2036 we want to invest in all kinds of technologies. That is what
2037 the Administration is doing. That is what we did in the
2038 legislation we passed in the last Congress. And I think it
2039 is really important for all of us to work together and not
2040 politicize this issue, but work to bring energy to the
2041 American people.

2042 And with that, I have exceeded my time, and I will yield
2043 back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2044 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. Any other
2045 members seeking recognition?

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2046 I will recognize myself. I move to strike the last word
2047 and speak in favor of the amendment.

2048 I appreciate the gentlelady's comments. I look forward
2049 to working with you on permitting reform. I think there is a
2050 lot of opportunity for bipartisan work in this Congress. I
2051 want to see that happen in this subcommittee to move some
2052 bills like permitting reform.

2053 Before I came to this committee, I chaired the Western
2054 Hemisphere Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs. I have been
2055 working on energy for a long time. And under the Obama
2056 Administration, Secretary Clinton actually negotiated the
2057 Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreement with Mexico to start
2058 developing the resources in the Gulf of Mexico under the
2059 maritime boundary between the United States and Mexico,
2060 shared resources that were going to be developed for energy
2061 production, working with our neighbors to the south.

2062 As chair of Western Hemisphere, I talked a lot about
2063 these type of things, working with our neighbors to the north
2064 and to the south on energy issues. It is interesting that,
2065 when we talk about pipelines, we also need to talk about
2066 transmission lines that go across the northern border and
2067 provide electricity both north and south. North Dakota and

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2068 Saskatchewan are working on a carbon sequestration and carbon
2069 pipeline to take carbon from North Dakota into Saskatchewan
2070 for carbon capture. Those are also cross-border
2071 infrastructure projects.

2072 I think there is a lot of opportunity to work under this
2073 piece of legislation with our neighbors to the north and
2074 south, whether that is Mexican resources coming to Texas to
2075 be refined, or whether that is from the Eagle Ford going into
2076 Mexico -- natural gas, primarily, from Texas going to Mexico,
2077 shared resources being developed, U.S. resources, Mexican
2078 resources, Canadian resources flowing north and south,
2079 helping North American energy independence be achieved, but
2080 also addressing climate with carbon projects -- as I
2081 mentioned earlier, North Dakota and Saskatchewan.

2082 I hope to lead a CODEL to Saskatchewan to meet with
2083 Premier Moe, talk about these projects that are going on,
2084 binational projects. So I support this amendment, and if no
2085 other members seek recognition I will yield back my time and
2086 call for the vote.

2087 The underlying question is on the amendment offered by
2088 Mr. Walberg, and those in favor of the amendment, say aye.

2089 Those opposed, no.

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2090 The ayes have it, in the opinion of the chair, and --

2091 *Ms. DeGette. A recorded vote.

2092 *Mr. Duncan. -- Ms. DeGette calls for a recorded vote.

2093 The clerk will call the roll.

2094 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

2095 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.

2096 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.

2097 Rep. Latta?

2098 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2099 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

2100 Rep. Guthrie?

2101 [No response.]

2102 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith?

2103 [No response.]

2104 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

2105 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.

2106 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2107 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes aye.

2108 Rep. Johnson?

2109 *Mr. Johnson. [Inaudible.]

2110 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.

2111 Rep. Bucshon?

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2112 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2113 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.

2114 Rep. Walberg?

2115 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

2116 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.

2117 Rep. Palmer?

2118 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

2119 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.

2120 Rep. Curtis?

2121 [No response.]

2122 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko?

2123 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

2124 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.

2125 Rep. Pence?

2126 [No response.]

2127 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong?

2128 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

2129 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.

2130 Rep. Armstrong?

2131 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

2132 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.

2133 Rep. Weber?

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2134 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2135 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
2136 Rep. Balderson?
2137 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]
2138 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
2139 Rep. Pfluger?
2140 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2141 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
2142 Rep. Rodgers?
2143 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
2144 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
2145 Rep. Duncan?
2146 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
2147 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
2148 Rep. DeGette?
2149 *Ms. DeGette. No.
2150 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
2151 Rep. Peters?
2152 [No response.]
2153 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher?
2154 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2155 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2156 Rep. Matsui?
2157 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2158 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
2159 Rep. Tonko?
2160 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2161 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
2162 Rep. Veasey?
2163 [No response.]
2164 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
2165 *Ms. Kuster. No.
2166 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.
2167 Rep. Schrier?
2168 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
2169 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
2170 Rep. Castor?
2171 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
2172 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.
2173 Rep. Sarbanes?
2174 [No response.]
2175 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
2176 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
2177 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2178 Rep. Blunt Rochester?

2179 [No response.]

2180 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone?

2181 *Mr. Pallone. No.

2182 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

2183 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Chair?

2184 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members not recorded?

2185 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Chair, how am I --

2186 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie reported?

2187 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded.

2188 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2189 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

2190 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Peters recorded?

2191 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.

2192 *Mr. Peters. No.

2193 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.

2194 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members not recorded?

2195 The clerk will report the totals.

2196 [Pause.]

2197 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 17 ayes

2198 and 9 noes.

2199 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the amendment is

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2200 agreed to.

2201 For what purpose does Ms. DeGette seek recognition?

2202 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
2203 desk, No. SC02.

2204 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

2205 *The Clerk. Amendment offered by Ms. DeGette. Page 2,
2206 line 25, strike "unless," and insert "if," page 3, line 2 -

2207 -

2208 *Ms. DeGette. I ask unanimous consent to consider the
2209 amendment as read.

2210 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will dispense with the reading.

2211

2212

2213

2214 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

2215

2216 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2217

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2218 *Mr. Duncan. And Ms. DeGette is recognized to explain
2219 the amendment.

2220 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
2221 as written, H.R. 1058 creates a presumption that any cross-
2222 border pipeline or transmission line is in the national
2223 interest.

2224 This bill requires that 120 days after the completion
2225 and publication of a project's environmental review, FERC or
2226 the Department of Energy grant a certification of crossing to
2227 a project developer unless the facility is not in the public
2228 interest. So this effectively creates a presumption that
2229 FERC and DoE must grant certificates unless they find the
2230 facilities not in the public interest. And so what that
2231 does, it establishes a ticking clock for them to make that
2232 decision and provide the evidence supporting the decision.

2233 So what this amendment does is simply flips the
2234 presumption under the amendment. The 120-day clock would
2235 remain, but FERC or DoE would only grant a public
2236 certification if they found the project was in the public
2237 interest. This seems to make a lot of sense to me. It is
2238 the same way that we treat LNG exports. The agency
2239 affirmatively finds that the export is within the public

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2240 interest, and I think that determination has served us well,
2241 and I -- so I oppose the efforts to remove it.

2242 The bill, I think, asks far too much of FERC and DoE,
2243 because it asks them to become arbiters of international
2244 affairs in an inappropriate way that is way outside of their
2245 purview. And so, as written, if the agencies are not sure if
2246 a pipeline or transmission line would be in the national
2247 interest, it wouldn't matter, it would be built anyway. So
2248 from an economic security perspective, that is not tenable.
2249 And from a national security perspective, I think it is
2250 downright irresponsible.

2251 And so I would urge support of this amendment. I think
2252 it is common sense, and I would yield back.

2253 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members who seek recognition?

2254 Mr. Armstrong is recognized.

2255 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
2256 speak in opposition to the amendment.

2257 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

2258 *Mr. Armstrong. I will start with a question, and that
2259 is, is there some really secret underlying Cold War with
2260 Canada that I am unaware of?

2261 Our North American allies are significant energy trading

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2262 partners. We share roughly 40 transmission interconnections
2263 with Canada, as well as a few interconnections with Mexico.
2264 We also share significant amounts of oil and gas pipeline on
2265 our northern and southern borders. This amendment would
2266 change the criteria on which a border-crossing facility
2267 certificate can be issued, requiring a positive public
2268 interest determination to be found before issuing the
2269 certificate.

2270 The current text requires a negative finding to be made
2271 in order for a certificate not to be issued. Under current
2272 law, LNG exports are automatically deemed in the public
2273 interest if the export is to a country with which we have a
2274 free trade agreement. Any export of oil, gas, or electricity
2275 to our northern American allies should have the same
2276 criteria, and be deemed in the public interest.

2277 I urge a no vote on this amendment, and I yield back.

2278 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Does anyone
2279 else seek recognition to speak on the amendment?

2280 Seeing none, a recorded vote has been requested, so we
2281 will just go straight to that. The clerk will call the roll.

2282 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

2283 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2284 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes no.
2285 Rep. Latta?
2286 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
2287 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes no.
2288 Rep. Guthrie?
2289 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
2290 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes no.
2291 Rep. Griffith?
2292 *Mr. Griffith. No.
2293 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes no.
2294 Rep. Johnson?
2295 *Mr. Johnson. No.
2296 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes no.
2297 Rep. Bucshon?
2298 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
2299 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes no.
2300 Rep. Walberg?
2301 *Mr. Walberg. No.
2302 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes no.
2303 Rep. Palmer?
2304 *Mr. Palmer. No.
2305 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2306 Rep. Curtis?
2307 [No response.]
2308 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko?
2309 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]
2310 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes no.
2311 Rep. Pence?
2312 *Mr. Pence. No.
2313 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes no.
2314 Rep. Armstrong?
2315 *Mr. Armstrong. No.
2316 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes no.
2317 Rep. Weber?
2318 *Mr. Weber. No.
2319 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes no.
2320 Rep. Balderson?
2321 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]
2322 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes no.
2323 Rep. Pfluger?
2324 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2325 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes no.
2326 Rep. Rodgers?
2327 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]

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2328 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes no.
2329 Rep. Duncan?
2330 *Mr. Duncan. No.
2331 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes no.
2332 Rep. DeGette?
2333 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2334 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes aye/
2335 Rep. Peters?
2336 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
2337 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes aye.
2338 Rep. Fletcher?
2339 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2340 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes aye.
2341 Rep. Matsui?
2342 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2343 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes aye.
2344 Rep. Tonko?
2345 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2346 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes aye?
2347 Rep. Veasey?
2348 [No response.]
2349 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?

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2350 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

2351 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes aye.

2352 Rep. Schrier?

2353 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2354 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes aye.

2355 Rep. Castor?

2356 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

2357 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes aye.

2358 Rep. Sarbanes?

2359 [No response.]

2360 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?

2361 *Mr. Cardenas. [Inaudible.]

2362 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes aye.

2363 Rep. Blunt Rochester?

2364 [No response.]

2365 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone?

2366 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2367 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes aye.

2368 *Mr. Duncan. Any member not recorded?

2369 The clerk will report the total.

2370 [Pause.]

2371 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 10 ayes

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2372 and 16 noes.

2373 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it, and the amendment is not
2374 agreed to.

2375 Any further discussion on the bill, as amendment --
2376 amended?

2377 Hearing none, the underlying question is passage of the
2378 bill, as amendment -- amended, and that is H.R. 1058.

2379 A recorded vote has been requested. The clerk will
2380 report the -- will record the -- call the roll.

2381 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

2382 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

2383 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.

2384 Rep. Latta?

2385 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2386 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

2387 Rep. Guthrie?

2388 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2389 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.

2390 Rep. Griffith?

2391 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2392 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes aye.

2393 Rep. Johnson?

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2394 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.
2395 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.
2396 Rep. Bucshon?
2397 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2398 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.
2399 Rep. Walberg?
2400 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2401 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
2402 Rep. Palmer?
2403 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
2404 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.
2405 Rep. Curtis?
2406 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
2407 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
2408 Rep. Lesko?
2409 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
2410 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
2411 Rep. Pence?
2412 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2413 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.
2414 Rep. Armstrong?
2415 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2416 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.
2417 Rep. Weber?
2418 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2419 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
2420 Rep. Balderson?
2421 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2422 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
2423 Rep. Pfluger?
2424 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2425 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
2426 Rep. Rodgers?
2427 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
2428 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
2429 Rep. Duncan?
2430 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
2431 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
2432 Rep. DeGette?
2433 *Ms. DeGette. [Inaudible.]
2434 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
2435 Rep. Peters?
2436 *Mr. Peters. No.
2437 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2438 Rep. Fletcher?
2439 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
2440 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes no.
2441 Rep. Matsui?
2442 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2443 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
2444 Rep. Tonko?
2445 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2446 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
2447 Rep. Veasey?
2448 [No response.]
2449 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
2450 *Ms. Kuster. [Inaudible.]
2451 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.
2452 Rep. Schrier?
2453 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
2454 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
2455 Rep. Castor?
2456 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
2457 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.
2458 Rep. Sarbanes?
2459 [No response.]

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2460 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?

2461 *Mr. Cardenas. No.

2462 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.

2463 Rep. Blunt Rochester?

2464 [No response.]

2465 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone?

2466 *Mr. Pallone. [Inaudible.]

2467 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

2468 *Mr. Duncan. Is any member not recorded?

2469 Seeing none, the clerk will report the total.

2470 [Pause.]

2471 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 17 ayes

2472 and 10 noes.

2473 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the bill is

2474 amendment -- amended, and will be reported to the full

2475 committee.

2476 The clerk will now -- the chair will call up H. Con.

2477 Resolution 14, and ask the clerk to report.

2478 *The Clerk. H. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution

2479 expressing disapproval of the revocation by President Biden

2480 of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

2481 Whereas --

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2482 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
2483 the resolution is dispensed with. The resolution will be
2484 open for amendment at any point.

2485 [The resolution follows:]

2486

2487 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2488

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2489 *Mr. Duncan. Any bipartisan amendments to be offered?

2490 Any further discussion on the bill?

2491 The chair will recognize Mrs. Lesko for -- to describe
2492 the amendment. The bill, rather.

2493 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud to
2494 cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 14, expressing
2495 disapproval of the revocation by President Biden of the
2496 presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

2497 On September 16th, 2019, President Biden said -- and I
2498 quote -- "I want you to look at my eyes. I guarantee you, I
2499 guarantee you we are going to end fossil fuels.'" And
2500 canceling the Keystone XL pipeline was just Biden's first
2501 step.

2502 This is a simple resolution, and I hope my colleagues on
2503 both sides of the aisle will support it. The Keystone XL
2504 pipeline was once a bipartisan issue that at least one of our
2505 Democratic colleagues on this committee supported. It is
2506 important, as members of this committee, to periodically
2507 express our disapproval when the President makes unwise,
2508 unilateral decisions that affect millions of Americans and
2509 costs the U.S. Treasury billions of dollars. This is such a
2510 time to do so.

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2511 On Biden's first day in office he canceled the Keystone
2512 XL pipeline permit, and with it the 830,000 barrels per day
2513 of oil that would have flowed through it from Canada to U.S.
2514 refineries. President Biden's actions were wrong in five
2515 ways.

2516 Canceling the Keystone pipeline did not actually stop
2517 the drilling or exporting of the Canadian oil sands, as the
2518 extreme environmentalists thought. The 830,000 barrels per
2519 day of crude oil from Alberta, Canada set a record for
2520 exports in 2022. The cancellation of the pipeline also did
2521 little to stop emissions. Oil is now transported by rails
2522 and trucks, which have higher emissions than a pipeline.

2523 Number two, President Biden insulted our best ally,
2524 Canada. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said, "Sadly, it is an
2525 insult directed at the United States' most important ally."'
2526 Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau echoed this same
2527 disappointment.

2528 Number three, the developer, TC Energy, a Canadian
2529 company, is now suing the U.S. under provisions of the Free
2530 Trade Agreement, and they will likely recover over \$8 billion
2531 in damages.

2532 Number four, the local communities where the pipeline

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2533 was to be located will continue to lose millions in lost tax
2534 revenues.

2535 Number five, finally, the ultimate cost of this reckless
2536 executive order is now reported to be as much as 59,000 jobs
2537 and up to \$9.6 billion that would have helped our economy
2538 thrive.

2539 It is asked in previous comments by my Democratic
2540 colleagues, why are we bringing this up? This is the first
2541 time that this committee has had the opportunity to voice our
2542 opinion on this disastrous decision. The previous Congress
2543 largely ignored this issue. The previous Congress largely
2544 ignored this whole decision. As a matter of fact, by this
2545 committee's silence on the issue, it has endorsed President
2546 Biden's all-of-the-government approach to eliminate fossil
2547 fuels. This energy policy has been a big cause of our
2548 record-high inflation, which has harmed all Americans.

2549 It is about time our constituents know how we feel.
2550 Canceling the pipeline was a reckless, out-of-touch decision,
2551 and it must be addressed. I hope all of you will vote in
2552 favor of this resolution, and I yield back.

2553 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members seeking recognition?

2554 For what purpose does the Ranking Member DeGette seek

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2555 recognition?

2556 *Ms. DeGette. I seek recognition to oppose the
2557 concurrent resolution.

2558 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized for five
2559 minutes.

2560 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, Mr.
2561 Chairman, we already had Groundhog Day. It was last month,
2562 but I feel like we are having it again, because here we are
2563 talking about the Keystone XL pipeline, which we talked about
2564 a lot in this committee over the years.

2565 Irrespective of what your position on the Keystone XL
2566 pipeline was, irrespective of what your views on what
2567 President Biden said were, the fact is TransCanada has now
2568 declared it would stop pursuing the project, and the pipeline
2569 is effectively dead. But this is what I have been saying
2570 since my opening statement about these resolutions and bills
2571 today. They are not actually trying to solve the energy
2572 issue in this country. They are just about people emoting
2573 about how they feel about the past.

2574 I heard my colleagues talking about things that John
2575 Kerry said eight years ago. Now we are hearing about the
2576 Keystone XL pipeline. And in fact, this isn't even a bill

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2577 that would do something. It is a resolution condemning
2578 something that happened two years ago.

2579 So Keystone XL would not have done anything to alleviate
2580 the cost and impacts of climate change, wouldn't have done
2581 anything to alleviate the high prices at the pump that
2582 American consumers faced the last year. It wouldn't have
2583 done anything to address the fact that oil companies are
2584 embarking on massive dividends and stock buybacks. It was it
2585 was really an idea -- I know we debated it a long time, but
2586 wouldn't have solved any of these problems.

2587 And so what I think we should do is stop rehashing all
2588 of the things we debated for many, many years, and doing,
2589 frankly, resolutions that aren't going to lead to anything,
2590 and we should sit down together and try to figure out how we
2591 are going to solve these problems. I believe that we can,
2592 and I look forward to doing that as we move forward after
2593 today.

2594 And so I urge all members who actually care about making
2595 substantive legislation on energy issues to oppose
2596 resolutions that don't do anything except for give people's
2597 opinions.

2598 And I yield back.

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2599 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member seeking recognition?

2600 The gentleman from Alabama, for what purpose do you seek
2601 recognition?

2602 *Mr. Palmer. I want to speak in favor, and --

2603 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

2604 *Mr. Palmer. -- would move to strike the last word.
2605 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2606 Again, I sit here and I am just amazed at what I hear.
2607 Obviously, there are some folks that don't understand supply
2608 and demand, but 835,000 barrels of Canadian oil coming into
2609 the marketplace in the United States would have lowered
2610 energy cost.

2611 There is 20 -- Mr. Chairman, there is 20 million
2612 households that are behind on their household utility bills
2613 because of the policies of this Administration, particularly
2614 in respect to natural gas. And while we are doing things
2615 like this, Russia and China collaborated to build a pipeline
2616 that is supplying 1.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per
2617 year to China. That pipeline is 1,875 miles long, okay?

2618 So we are letting our hydrocarbon infrastructure go into
2619 decline. We are increasing prices for people at the pump,
2620 but particularly in terms of household utilities. And a

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2621 nation whose energy production is in decline is not a nation
2622 that can have a very bright economic future.

2623 So I support this bill, these -- and these other bills
2624 that we are bringing up, because it is in the essential best
2625 interest of every American and the essential, best interest
2626 of our economic security, and the essential, best interest of
2627 our national security.

2628 I yield back.

2629 *Mr. Pfluger. Will the gentleman yield to Mr. Pfluger?

2630 *Mr. Palmer. I would be happy to yield.

2631 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you.

2632 Why is it important to rehash this? Because our
2633 constituents are asking for it, because the American people
2634 are asking for it. At a very micro level, we are rehashing
2635 this because prices on everything have gone up, because
2636 thousands of families are no longer employed in a project
2637 that they were promised employment on. This is very similar
2638 to 1058, the cross-border energy infrastructure bill that we
2639 just discussed.

2640 And the reason that TransCanada is stopping
2641 construction, or saying they are not going to pursue it, is
2642 because it was expropriated. This was expropriated from

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2643 them. It is basically the exact same thing as a third-world
2644 country policy where you don't have the environment, the
2645 investment certainty.

2646 In effect, President Biden has said no to North American
2647 dominance. He has said no to thousands of workers in the
2648 United States, to our ability to counter OPEC from Canada
2649 through the United States and into Mexico, for a North
2650 American organization, if you want to call it that, to
2651 counter China. The President has literally thrown away the
2652 resources that we have right here in favor of outsourcing our
2653 jobs, in favor of dirtier sources of energy, in favor of
2654 slave labor and human rights violations in places like China.
2655 That is why we are rehashing this.

2656 That is why this is important to have this discussion
2657 right here, because if we don't do it, not only do we lose
2658 jobs and have higher costs for energy, but we also give that
2659 source of geopolitical power to our adversaries.

2660 I couldn't agree more with what Mrs. Lesko is doing
2661 here, in addition to the efforts of all the bills here that
2662 are important to rehash because our policy has gone so wrong
2663 for the last two years.

2664 And with that, I yield back.

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2665 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, you know, I have learned
2666 through my own life experiences and observing things in
2667 history that smart people learn from their mistakes. They
2668 don't double down on them. And that is what it appears that
2669 some people want to do, is double down on the mistakes that
2670 we are making. And I really do believe that it has become an
2671 existential threat to our national security to continue this.

2672 I mean, particularly to -- this false argument that we
2673 are dependent on any other country, much less the Middle
2674 East, for our energy supplies, it is a complete false
2675 narrative. What we would do, though, is become completely
2676 dependent on China for a renewable power grid. That would be
2677 an enormous mistake.

2678 And I yield back.

2679 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further
2680 discussion on the resolution?

2681 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been recorded --
2682 requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

2683 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

2684 [No response.]

2685 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta?

2686 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2687 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.
2688 Rep. Guthrie?
2689 [No response.]
2690 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith?
2691 [No response.]
2692 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?
2693 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.
2694 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.
2695 Rep. Bucshon?
2696 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2697 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.
2698 Rep. Walberg?
2699 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2700 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
2701 Rep. Palmer?
2702 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
2703 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.
2704 Rep. Curtis?
2705 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
2706 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
2707 Rep. Lesko?
2708 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2709 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
2710 Rep. Pence?
2711 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2712 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.
2713 Rep. Armstrong?
2714 [No response.]
2715 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber?
2716 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2717 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
2718 Rep. Balderson?
2719 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2720 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
2721 Rep. Pfluger?
2722 *Mr. Pfluger. [Inaudible.]
2723 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
2724 Rep. Rodgers?
2725 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
2726 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
2727 Rep. Duncan?
2728 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
2729 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
2730 Rep. DeGette?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2731 *Ms. DeGette. No.

2732 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.

2733 Rep. Peters?

2734 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]

2735 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes no.

2736 Rep. Fletcher?

2737 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

2738 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes no.

2739 Rep. Matsui?

2740 *Ms. Matsui. No.

2741 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.

2742 Rep. Tonko?

2743 *Mr. Tonko. No.

2744 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.

2745 Rep. Veasey?

2746 [No response.]

2747 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?

2748 *Ms. Kuster. [Inaudible.]

2749 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.

2750 Rep. Schrier?

2751 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]

2752 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2753 Rep. Castor?

2754 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

2755 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.

2756 Rep. Sarbanes?

2757 [No response.]

2758 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?

2759 *Mr. Cardenas. [Inaudible.]

2760 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.

2761 Rep. Blunt Rochester?

2762 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. [Inaudible.]

2763 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes no.

2764 Rep. Pallone?

2765 *Mr. Pallone. Nay.

2766 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

2767 *Mr. Duncan. Any member unrecorded?

2768 Mr. Guthrie.

2769 *Mr. Guthrie. I vote aye.

2770 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

2771 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Armstrong recorded?

2772 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong is not recorded.

2773 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

2774 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2775 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

2776 The clerk will report the total.

2777 [Pause.]

2778 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 15 ayes
2779 and 11 noes.

2780 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the resolution is
2781 agreed to.

2782 The chair will now call up H. Con. Resolution 17, and
2783 ask the clerk to report.

2784 *The Clerk. H. Con. Res 17, a concurrent resolution
2785 expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal Government
2786 should not impose any restrictions on the export of crude oil
2787 or other petroleum products.

2788 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
2789 the resolution is dispensed with, and the resolution will be
2790 open for amendment at any point.

2791 [The resolution follows:]

2792

2793 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2794

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2795 *Mr. Duncan. The chair will now recognize Mr. Guthrie,
2796 the author of the resolution, to explain what it does.

2797 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank
2798 the committee for including my bill in this markup today.

2799 This resolution affirms Congress's bipartisan vote in
2800 2015 to repeal the decades-long export ban on crude oil and
2801 petroleum products.

2802 Additionally, it says that the Federal Government should
2803 not impose overly restrictive regulations on the exploration,
2804 production, or marketing of energy resources, or restrictions
2805 on the export of crude oil and petroleum products.

2806 When Congress lifted the export ban, the American oil
2807 and gas industry was reinvigorated. Investments in domestic
2808 energy production increased, creating new American jobs and
2809 unleashing economic development. As a result of this
2810 investment, the United States emerged as the leading producer
2811 in the world and, in 2019, became a net exporter of petroleum
2812 products for the first time since 1952.

2813 President Biden and some of our colleagues on the other
2814 side of the aisle have floated reinstating the export ban as
2815 a way to increase domestic supply and decrease prices at the
2816 pump. Reinstating the export ban will likely have the

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2817 opposite effect. By shrinking the market available to
2818 American crude oil and other petroleum products, American oil
2819 and gas companies will likely reduce domestic investments.
2820 This ultimately risks higher prices at the pump and higher
2821 home heating bills.

2822 It also jeopardizes our national security. American oil
2823 and gas exports make us and our allies less dependent on
2824 energy from dictators. We are seeing this play out now in
2825 Europe. For years, Russia has been able to leverage its
2826 energy sector over other countries, including our NATO allies
2827 and other European partners. The Russian oil and gas sector
2828 has, in large part, funded Russia's illegal and unprovoked
2829 invasion of Ukraine.

2830 However, since the invasion, U.S. LNG exports have
2831 helped our European allies replace Russian energy imports,
2832 helping keep the lights on homes and -- lights on and homes
2833 heated across Europe, while also cutting off resources for
2834 Putin's war machine in Ukraine.

2835 If we reverse course and reinstate the export ban
2836 without their own domestic alternatives, our European
2837 partners will once again be at the mercy of foreign dictators
2838 like Putin, undermining their national security and ours.

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2839 Putin would be only -- would only benefit of a ban on
2840 American exports, while American consumers would suffer.

2841 The Biden Administration's anti-fossil fuel agenda is to
2842 blame for high energy prices. In order to increase supply
2843 and alleviate high prices of -- for Americans, we should be
2844 supporting policies that unleash American energy.

2845 I had a chance just recently to meet with some high-
2846 ranking European colleagues -- and these aren't from the
2847 right-of-center parties, these are from most of the governing
2848 parties in part of Europe, and their mission to us as we left
2849 was, "produce more gas, produce more gas." That is what
2850 they need to survive, and -- or in order to -- you know,
2851 Germany right now, I think, is three times the price of
2852 energy that it is -- three or four times as it is here. And
2853 they say they need that to move forward. I said survive.
2854 That is not correct. They need it in order to continually
2855 offset what they are doing in funding Putin's war on Ukraine.

2856 So I urge my colleagues to support my resolution, and I
2857 yield back.

2858 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any other
2859 members seeking recognition on the resolution?

2860 Seeing none, I will recognize myself. I move to strike

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2861 the last word and speak in support of the resolution.

2862 In 2015 Congress passed a bipartisan bill to repeal the
2863 1970s-era restrictions on the export of crude oil. The bill
2864 was signed into law by President Obama. Since then, we have
2865 seen the benefits of free trade and open markets in the
2866 energy sector, economic benefits, energy security benefits,
2867 flexibility on the global stage, America actually competing
2868 with some of our adversaries.

2869 Before the Biden Administration took office, the United
2870 States was the world's leading energy producer, and a net
2871 exporter of energy. As a direct result of Congress and
2872 President Obama lifting the crude oil export ban, OPEC,
2873 China, and Russia's power over the world oil markets had been
2874 diminished.

2875 We should not be in the business of putting restrictions
2876 on certain commodities. We should continue to uphold the
2877 commitment to free trade and open markets in order to provide
2878 domestic economic benefits, enhanced energy security,
2879 flexibility in the foreign diplomacy, as was intended by the
2880 bipartisan bill in 2015.

2881 So I support Mr. Guthrie's resolution, urge my
2882 colleagues to do so. And with that I yield back.

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2883 Any further discussion on the resolution?

2884 Ms. Castor of Florida is recognized for five minutes.

2885 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2886 Well, members, I think this goes way too far, and we are

2887 -- we need to rethink this.

2888 I hope that we are all concerned with China's growing

2889 ties with the Kremlin. Right now, the leader of Belarus, who

2890 is a proxy for Vladimir Putin, is meeting with the dictator

2891 from China. They are considering restocking Russia as the

2892 ammunition dwindles and their stocks of weapons dwindle.

2893 Think about the broader context here on what is being

2894 supplied to the authoritarian CCP. This would allow

2895 additional carte blanche exports to China and our

2896 adversaries. That is the wrong way to go at this point in

2897 time.

2898 Right now, there are U.S. companies, oil and gas

2899 companies, that have enriched themselves while also enriching

2900 the CCP strategic intentions. They are inking deals right

2901 now of American-produced oil and gas. And I think it is

2902 wrong for us to go on record and say, yes, let's make it

2903 easier for dictators and adversaries to make deals with

2904 American big oil and gas companies.

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2905 So I would just caution you to go back to the drawing
2906 board on this. I can't support it, and I hope you all will
2907 vote no, as well.

2908 And at this point I will yield back my time.

2909 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. Any further
2910 discussion?

2911 Mrs. Fletcher is recognized.

2912 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to
2913 be very clear that I support energy exports. That is
2914 something we do out of my district and our region, in the
2915 Houston region. Not only do we refine a lot of the products
2916 we are talking about today, but we export them to the world.
2917 And I think it is critically important that we continue to do
2918 that. And I think that the 2015 legislation to remove the
2919 export ban was the right legislation, as you all have pointed
2920 out, signed into law by President Obama. I think there is
2921 bipartisan support for these exports.

2922 I certainly have heard the concerns and discussion over
2923 the last year or so that some people have suggested
2924 reinstituting an export ban, and I do not support that. I do
2925 not think that that is the right thing.

2926 I am having a little trouble, though, kind of

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2927 reconciling this bill with the bill that was on the floor of
2928 the House just a couple of weeks ago prohibiting exports from
2929 the SPR to China, and the sale of those to China. I think
2930 that what I see here is that this isn't really necessary,
2931 this resolution, and it is too broad. It is -- you know, it
2932 is sort of big.

2933 It says we can't have any regulations on this at all.
2934 And I think that that undermines what we have been talking
2935 about, which is energy security and our energy policy is a
2936 really important foreign policy issue and tool, and this is
2937 our national security. And so I think that the breadth of
2938 this resolution unnecessarily ties our hands in a way that we
2939 don't need to, and that we shouldn't.

2940 But I absolutely don't think that we should be banning
2941 exports right now, and I don't think that there is a serious
2942 conversation about doing that. I would not support that.

2943 But like I said, I think that we just don't need to do
2944 this resolution at this time. I think it is overly broad,
2945 and I think, rather than speaking on the next bill, I will
2946 say I think it -- you know, there are similar concerns about
2947 removing DoE approvals. We have a system in place to take
2948 into account. The national security issues and the moment

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2949 that we are living in -- and actually, I think, when we look
2950 ahead at kind of the process we have on LNG, I think that is
2951 what we should be doing more broadly, rather than repealing
2952 that, as well.

2953 So I can talk on that when that comes up, but ultimately
2954 I am going to vote no on this bill, and I -- on this
2955 resolution, and I just -- I urge my colleagues to do the
2956 same. I think it is overly broad and unnecessary.

2957 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentlelady yield?

2958 *Mrs. Fletcher. Yes.

2959 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you. I think the difference in this
2960 resolution and the bill you mentioned that was on the floor
2961 dealing with the SPR is we are talking about open and free
2962 markets, and the sale of a commodity versus a strategic asset
2963 that the United States stores to be used when we have a time
2964 of emergency.

2965 And with the Biden Administration releasing oil from the
2966 SPR and allowing adversaries to buy it to replenish their
2967 Strategic Petroleum Reserves, that is where the difference
2968 is: free market commodity produced in America sold versus a
2969 strategic asset. I think that is the biggest difference, and
2970 I just wanted to point that out, and I appreciate the lady

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2971 yielding.

2972 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you. And I just want to
2973 note I certainly understand that difference. But once we
2974 sell oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which we have
2975 done many times, including as authorized by this committee
2976 for things unrelated to lowering the price of gas -- like
2977 when we used it to fund the 20th Century Cures Act, the 21st
2978 Century Cures Act -- I think it is important to recognize
2979 that that oil is just sold onto the open market, and it can
2980 then be sold beyond that. And so really, sort of a
2981 distinction in this moment without a difference.

2982 If we are talking about free markets, then we are
2983 talking about putting things into this market. If what we
2984 are talking about is understanding the national security
2985 implications of our partners, then it makes sense to allow
2986 for consideration of that in terms of our policy, and not
2987 limit our ability to execute our foreign policy and other
2988 policy objectives in this way.

2989 So I just -- like I said, I think it is overly broad. I
2990 appreciate your distinction, but I still don't think that I
2991 can support this resolution, and I yield back.

2992 *Mr. Duncan. Yes, the gentlelady yields back. Any

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2993 further discussion on the resolution?

2994 Seeing none, the clerk will report the total -- a roll
2995 call vote has been requested, and the clerk will call the
2996 roll.

2997 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

2998 [No response.]

2999 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta?

3000 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]

3001 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

3002 Rep. Guthrie?

3003 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

3004 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.

3005 Rep. Griffith?

3006 [No response.]

3007 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

3008 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.

3009 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.

3010 Rep. Bucshon?

3011 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3012 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.

3013 Rep. Walberg?

3014 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

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3015 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
3016 Rep. Palmer?
3017 [No response.]
3018 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis?
3019 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
3020 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
3021 Rep. Lesko?
3022 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
3023 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
3024 Rep. Pence?
3025 *Mr. Pence. [Inaudible.]
3026 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.
3027 Rep. Armstrong?
3028 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.
3029 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.
3030 Rep. Weber?
3031 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
3032 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
3033 Rep. Balderson?
3034 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]
3035 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
3036 Rep. Pfluger?

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3037 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3038 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
3039 Rep. Rodgers?
3040 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
3041 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
3042 Rep. Duncan?
3043 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
3044 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
3045 Rep. DeGette?
3046 *Ms. DeGette. No.
3047 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
3048 Rep. Peters?
3049 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
3050 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes no.
3051 Rep. Fletcher?
3052 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
3053 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes no.
3054 Rep. Matsui?
3055 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3056 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
3057 Rep. Tonko?
3058 *Mr. Tonko. No.

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3059 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.
3060 Rep. Veasey?
3061 [No response.]
3062 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
3063 *Ms. Kuster. No.
3064 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster votes no.
3065 Rep. Schrier?
3066 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
3067 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
3068 Rep. Castor?
3069 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
3070 *The Clerk. Rep. Castor votes no.
3071 Rep. Sarbanes?
3072 [No response.]
3073 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
3074 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
3075 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.
3076 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
3077 [No response.]
3078 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone?
3079 *Mr. Pallone. [Inaudible.]
3080 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

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3081 *Mr. Duncan. Any members not recorded?

3082 The clerk will report the total.

3083 [Pause.]

3084 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 14 ayes
3085 and 10 noes.

3086 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the resolution is
3087 agreed to.

3088 The chair will now call up H.R. 1130, and ask the clerk
3089 to report.

3090 *The Clerk. H.R. 1130, to repeal restrictions on the
3091 export and import of natural gas.

3092 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading
3093 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
3094 amendment at any point.

3095 [The bill follows:]

3096

3097 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3098

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3099 *Mr. Duncan. And the chair will now recognize Mr.
3100 Johnson to explain the bill.

3101 *Mr. Johnson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
3102 strike the last word.

3103 You know, last month I was encouraged when I saw our
3104 energy secretariat, the White House podium, being asked about
3105 LNG exports. She said, and I quote, "We know that our
3106 liquefied natural gas exports have been a significant help to
3107 our allies.'" And then she said, and I quote, "We are
3108 fortunate that we have an abundance, obviously, of natural
3109 gas in this country. Our prices are low.'"

3110 She is right. And this isn't even the first time that I
3111 have commended her on her support for LNG exports either,
3112 especially in regards to how we can use this strategic
3113 resource to help Europe get out from under the boot of
3114 Vladimir Putin. I am certainly willing to give credit where
3115 credit is due.

3116 However, there is one problem. Just last April -- and
3117 some of you remember this -- our Energy Secretary Granholm
3118 was slated to appear and face questions before this
3119 subcommittee. And I kid you not, the night before that
3120 hearing at quite literally the 11th hour, a press release

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3121 went out from DoE. It was the approval of an LNG export
3122 authorization that had been sitting at the Department of
3123 Energy for 463 days. What a convenient thing. What
3124 convenient timing.

3125 Friends, colleagues, actions speak louder than words.
3126 And that is not the only one. In the last year we have seen
3127 these permits languish at DoE for 146 days, 678 days, 762
3128 days. I know everyone wants to talk permitting. To my
3129 colleagues, wouldn't this issue of the hold-up at DoE be low-
3130 hanging fruit? The fact that major multi-billion-dollar
3131 FERC-approved globally strategic American energy investments
3132 can be held up at the whim of political appointees, that is
3133 beyond unacceptable to me.

3134 My bill would fix this. And also, I do have an
3135 amendment that we will discuss later to actually improve the
3136 legislation and prevent political interference from other
3137 agencies, as well.

3138 With that, Mr. Chairman, allow me to take a minute to
3139 quickly respond to some of the critics of my legislation.

3140 America is the number-one global liquefied natural gas
3141 exporter right now, and our citizens will pay some of the
3142 lowest natural gas prices in the world. That is what is

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3143 happening right now, and that is not changing. The
3144 fearmongering about this legislation causing prices to
3145 skyrocket is unfounded, and it is not based in reality.

3146 Some opponents have even went so far as to falsely say
3147 that expanding LNG exports would cause shortages of natural
3148 gas in the United States. Friends, as a member with a
3149 district directly atop the Marcellus and Utica Shale, trust
3150 me, we have plenty, actually way more than enough. In fact,
3151 according to the latest estimates, the United States has well
3152 over a century's worth of natural gas supply. And according
3153 to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in the next
3154 few decades domestic natural gas production is projected to
3155 increase twice as fast as domestic consumption, even
3156 factoring in increased LNG exports.

3157 If opponents of this legislation truly care about
3158 lowering natural gas prices or bills -- and natural gas-fired
3159 electricity bills for their constituents, they would stop
3160 blaming LNG exports and look in the mirror. It is true that
3161 some Americans could use some relief on their energy bills,
3162 but this is mainly due to radical environmentalist policies
3163 at the national, state, and local levels that
3164 disproportionately hit citizens in certain geographic areas

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3165 like New England and the East Coast, for example. Folks,
3166 they are frequent -- folks, there frequently pay double or
3167 even triple the prices for natural gas than my constituents
3168 do in Ohio. Why? Because their left-wing leaders keep
3169 blocking new pipelines, and then enacting other wrongheaded
3170 energy policy decisions.

3171 So my message is simple: America has plenty of natural
3172 gas to go around. If you are worried about natural gas
3173 prices, build a pipeline to Ohio. We are happy to send you
3174 some. In the meantime, we will keep doing what we are doing.

3175 From Texas to Pennsylvania to Ohio, America's resource-
3176 rich regions will keep producing abundant, affordable natural
3177 gas for our citizens and exporting clean American natural gas
3178 around the world. Let's build on this, and make America the
3179 energy superpower of the 21st century.

3180 With that, I urge my colleagues to support my
3181 legislation.

3182 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3183 *Mr. Curtis. [Presiding] The gentleman yields. The
3184 chair recognizes the Ranking Member DeGette.

3185 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
3186 strike the last word.

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3187 *Mr. Curtis. You are recognized.

3188 *Ms. DeGette. Thanks. The first thing I want to do is
3189 I want to let my colleague from Ohio know -- and I told him
3190 this on the floor last night -- we were all so, so sorry
3191 about what has happened in his district, and very supportive
3192 of you with all of that.

3193 *Mr. Johnson. I thank the gentlelady for those
3194 comments.

3195 *Ms. DeGette. Now, talking about the bill, what it does
3196 is it really takes out the common-sense policies that were
3197 established under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act by
3198 removing the requirement that exporters seek approval from
3199 the Department of Energy that the exports are in the public
3200 interest.

3201 So what that would do is it would transform the natural
3202 gas market into a volatile global market that mimics the oil
3203 market, which is something that does not ensure affordable
3204 energy here at home. It is kind of ironic that that would be
3205 the result of this bill.

3206 And frankly, any American who is getting tired of being
3207 gouged by the international oil market should be really
3208 concerned about this, because that is exactly what this bill

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3209 would do. What it would do is it would remove the safeguards
3210 that prevent U.S. natural gas markets from being fully tied
3211 to international natural gas markets that are subject to the
3212 whims of the world's largest producers like Russia, Iran, and
3213 China.

3214 The requirement that exports be in the public interest
3215 serves the public. It serves all of us here today, and it
3216 serves our constituents back home. But it doesn't serve the
3217 interests of the big oil and gas companies, and that is why
3218 they are lobbying to remove the requirement.

3219 And furthermore, this bill doesn't just remove barriers
3220 to sending natural gas to our allies in Europe or in Japan,
3221 for example. It removes barriers to sending even more
3222 natural gas to China, which, given the -- and just given the
3223 conversation that our colleague Mrs. Fletcher was just
3224 having, I am surprised anybody would support it.

3225 The bill is nothing more than a giveaway to the natural
3226 gas special interests. It doesn't protect us and bring down
3227 the cost of energy here at home. And it would do the
3228 opposite. And for that reason, I urge my colleagues to
3229 oppose the bill, and I yield back.

3230 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields. Is

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3231 there anyone else that wishes to be recognized?

3232 *Mr. Johnson. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
3233 desk.

3234 *Mr. Curtis. Okay. Let me first go to the gentlewoman
3235 from Texas, Mrs. Fletcher.

3236 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I will
3237 try to be brief. I raised some of these issues in the
3238 context of the last bill, but I just want to raise a couple
3239 of issues here.

3240 I don't support this bill. While I do support the
3241 export of American LNG and, in fact, would love to talk more
3242 about that on this committee, I think that the system that we
3243 are talking about here, while perhaps -- I definitely hear
3244 some of the concerns about the time for these permit
3245 approvals, but I think what we need to remember is that these
3246 particular approvals apply only to exports to countries where
3247 we do not already have a free trade agreement. Those are
3248 automatically deemed in the national interest.

3249 So we are talking about facilities and permits relating
3250 to exports to countries where getting that input from the
3251 Department of Energy, I think, is still important. And in
3252 fact, this was the argument I made when we were talking about

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3253 exports from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that we should
3254 have a process like this and have DoE involved. It is
3255 something this committee took up years ago, before I was
3256 here, but I think that that is actually what we should be
3257 doing.

3258 And what I think we can do is, rather than basically gut
3259 the provisions to do this review, we should look at expanding
3260 it. In the last Congress I introduced a bill called the
3261 American Gas for Allies Act. We are working on a
3262 reintroduction of that bill -- and I would love for this
3263 committee to take it up -- that expands the provisions here
3264 that expedite the process for countries that we have a free
3265 trade agreement with to our allies and partners in Europe who
3266 we do not have free trade agreements with, but who are
3267 helping fight Russia's unprovoked and unconscionable brutal
3268 war in Ukraine.

3269 I think there are things that we can do that are smart
3270 to help get this gas onto the market, where it is needed
3271 right now, but I don't support gutting all of the provisions,
3272 as this bill does. And so I am going to vote against this
3273 bill.

3274 Thank you, I will yield back.

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3275 *Mr. Curtis. The gentlewoman yields. Is there anyone
3276 else that wishes to speak to the bill?

3277 If not --

3278 *Mr. Johnson. Mr. Chairman, I do have an amendment at
3279 the desk.

3280 *Mr. Curtis. Is your amendment bipartisan?

3281 *Mr. Johnson. I know it is in -- it is amendment No. 3.

3282 *Mr. Curtis. We are just taking bipartisan amendments
3283 first is the only reason I ask.

3284 *Mr. Johnson. Oh, that is fine.

3285 *Mr. Curtis. All right. Seeing none, the gentleman is
3286 recognized.

3287 *Mr. Johnson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3288 This amendment makes two points of clarification. It is
3289 amendment No. 3, by the way.

3290 *The Clerk. Would the chair like me to report?

3291 *Mr. Curtis. Please, yes, thank you.

3292 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1130, offered by Rep.
3293 Johnson. Page 2, line 8, strike "Commission," and insert
3294 "Federal Energy Regulatory Commission."

3295 *Mr. Curtis. Without objection, the reading of the
3296 amendment is dispensed with.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3297

3298

3299 [The amendment of Mr. Johnson follows:]

3300

3301 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3302

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3303 *Mr. Curtis. And the gentleman is recognized for five
3304 minutes in support of the amendment.

3305 *Mr. Johnson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment
3306 makes two points of clarification which were identified as
3307 helpful by DoE, FERC, and other stakeholders that would
3308 benefit from this legislation and its goal to move the --
3309 remove the regulatory burdens and barriers to LNG imports and
3310 exports. The amendment does two things.

3311 First, it makes clear that the Federal Energy Regulatory
3312 Commission, not DoE, will have the exclusive authority to
3313 make application decisions under the provisions of this bill.
3314 This preserves the current role of FERC, and avoids confusion
3315 with DoE's authority under the DoE Organization Act. This
3316 means FERC will continue to approve or deny applications for
3317 the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a
3318 facility to export or import natural gas, pursuant to section
3319 3 of the Natural Gas Act. It will continue to lead on NEPA
3320 reviews.

3321 Second, the amendment adds the clarification that, when
3322 FERC conducts its application reviews, it shall deem the
3323 exportation and importation of natural gas as consistent with
3324 the public interest. This provision clarifies that there

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3325 will be no restrictions on the export of natural gas as a
3326 commodity, as it is in the public interest. The underlying
3327 purpose of this bill is to remove burdensome red tape on the
3328 exportation of natural gas. This follows the policy this
3329 committee advanced in H.R. 702 in 2015, which removed the
3330 Commerce Department fully from restricting crude oil exports
3331 to the benefit of the nation and the world, as we have since
3332 learned.

3333 So I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and
3334 continue the positive policies that we need to advance our
3335 goal of global leadership and provide affordable, clean
3336 energy here at home and abroad.

3337 And with that, I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

3338 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you.

3339 The gentleman yields. Is there further discussion on
3340 the amendment?

3341 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

3342 *Mr. Curtis. Yes, the gentleman from Texas is --

3343 *Mr. Pfluger. I move to strike the last word.

3344 *Mr. Curtis. The gentleman is recognized.

3345 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, you know,
3346 I think it is an important discussion here.

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3347 What we are talking about is actually helping. You
3348 know, I have heard on the other side of the aisle, even in
3349 today in this discussion, helping Ukraine, helping our
3350 allies, helping -- well, with those countries that we don't
3351 have a free trade agreement with -- and I had an LNG
3352 expansion act bill last year, and this is very similar --
3353 this actually does help. It actually does move at the speed
3354 of relevancy, which the business world is moving at. And
3355 unfortunately, government is moving in an archaic pace.

3356 And we are -- so I hear from my colleagues that we want
3357 to be able to help. Well, this is a way we can help
3358 countries like Moldova, who are facing a dire shortage of LNG
3359 right now, today. And they have asked us for help, and yet
3360 we can't get out of our own way to approve it.

3361 This is not a Big Oil giveaway. I am not sure how many
3362 more times we are going to hear that point today. I am sure
3363 it is numerous. This is not only helping our own country,
3364 but it is helping our allies.

3365 So for those on the other side of the aisle, let's have
3366 the discussion. And actually, today is the time to have that
3367 discussion. Where are the amendments to help improve this
3368 from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle? Where are

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3369 the amendments to help make these bills what you would want
3370 them to be?

3371 You just asked, Mr. Chairman, where are the bipartisan
3372 amendments to this. We agree with part of it, but not the
3373 others, but yet there is no amendments? I am sorry. If you
3374 don't come to the markup with an amendment that makes it what
3375 you want, then we kind of get to the point where this is a
3376 good amendment, it helps our own industry here, and it helps
3377 our allies.

3378 With that, I yield back.

3379 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you. The gentleman yields.

3380 Seeing no further discussion, the vote occurs on the
3381 amendment.

3382 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3383 All those opposed?

3384 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

3385 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman?

3386 *Mr. Curtis. Is -- yes. Are there any other
3387 amendments?

3388 Yes, Mr. Pallone seeks to be recognized.

3389 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
3390 desk, No. SCD02.

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3391 *Mr. Curtis. The clerk will report the amendment.

3392 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1130, offered by Rep.

3393 Pallone. Add -

3394 *Mr. Curtis. Without objection, the reading of the
3395 amendment is dispensed.

3396 [The amendment of Mr. Pallone follows:]

3397

3398 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3399

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3400 *Mr. Curtis. And the gentleman is recognized for five
3401 minutes in the support of his amendment.

3402 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment is
3403 straightforward. It simply says that the bill shall not take
3404 effect until the Secretary of Energy certifies that increased
3405 LNG exports from the United States will not increase domestic
3406 natural gas prices. Many of my constituents use natural gas
3407 to heat their homes, and the high prices they have seen over
3408 the past two winters due to Putin's invasion of Ukraine have
3409 been difficult for families throughout New Jersey.

3410 When we had our joint subcommittee hearing three weeks
3411 ago, we heard from Mr. Tyson Slocum, who testified about how
3412 increased LNG exports tie U.S. natural gas prices to higher
3413 and more volatile international prices. According to the
3414 Saint Louis Fed, European natural gas prices averaged just
3415 under \$20 per unit in January, and that is roughly 6 times
3416 more expensive than natural gas prices here in the United
3417 States.

3418 So I am worried and my constituents are worried that
3419 this bill would only serve to increase the price of natural
3420 gas in the United States. We are not the only ones. The
3421 Industrial Energy Consumers of America also urged opposition

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3422 to the bill on the grounds that excessive LNG exports can
3423 increase natural gas prices and volatility, leaving Americans
3424 on the hook while Big Oil and Gas profits by selling LNG at
3425 inflated prices.

3426 LNG exports exploded by 2,000 percent from 2016 to 2022.
3427 U.S. natural gas prices increased by 155 percent over that
3428 same timeframe. And when an explosion at the Freeport LNG
3429 export facility in Texas shut down the facility, domestic
3430 natural gas prices immediately fell by 10 percent, because
3431 gas that was set to be exported from that facility was now
3432 going to stay in the United States market. And that was not
3433 a coincidence.

3434 So my point is, if my friends on the other side of the
3435 aisle dispute that the bill would result in higher natural
3436 gas prices, then they should be happy to vote for this
3437 amendment, as in that case then the Secretary could make her
3438 certification on the day the bill would be enacted, and it
3439 could go into effect. But if, as I think we all know they
3440 do, LNG exports do increase domestic natural gas prices, then
3441 this amendment would be a vital safeguard to ensure that
3442 Americans are not ripped off by Big Oil and Gas.

3443 And so I urge support of my amendment, and I yield back

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3444 at this time, Mr. Chairman.

3445 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you.

3446 The gentleman yields. Is there a discussion on the
3447 amendment?

3448 *Mr. Johnson. Mr. Chairman?

3449 *Mr. Curtis. Does the gentleman wish to be recognized?

3450 *Mr. Johnson. I strike the last word to speak in
3451 opposition.

3452 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you. The gentleman is recognized.

3453 *Mr. Johnson. LNG exports lower emissions, strengthen
3454 energy security, create jobs, and decrease energy prices here
3455 at home.

3456 The whole point of my legislation is to remove
3457 regulations on the exportation and importation of natural gas
3458 to assure Americans can realize the benefits of increased
3459 production and supply. This amendment would do exactly the
3460 opposite, imposing a broad economic regulation on exports,
3461 which will add to uncertainty, curtail market signals
3462 essential for increased production, and lead to higher
3463 prices. Restricting LNG exports would mean higher prices at
3464 home for Americans. It reduces the amount in the global
3465 market, which puts an upward pressure on prices.

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3466 As I said in my opening remarks on this legislation, the
3467 issue is not limited natural gas reserves in this country,
3468 because we have plenty, more than enough to go around.

3469 And also, I have to say, it is rich coming from my
3470 colleagues in the minority, saying that they now are
3471 concerned about Americans suffering with high natural gas
3472 bills. I have a hard time believing the sincerity of this
3473 concern when, for years now, we have seen Democrats' entire
3474 legislative and regulatory agenda built upon rush-to-green
3475 initiatives that make this type of energy so expensive that
3476 people will stop using it.

3477 My friends and colleagues, we need to pursue policies to
3478 unleash American resources, to deliver clean, affordable, and
3479 reliable energy to Americans, and project American
3480 geostrategic power abroad. We need more production to lower
3481 prices, not stifling regulations and continued restrictions.
3482 So I urge a no vote on this amendment, and a yes vote on the
3483 underlying bill, and I yield back.

3484 *Mr. Curtis. Is there further discussion on the
3485 amendment?

3486 The chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

3487 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The United States

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3488 began exporting liquefied natural gas from the U.S. lower 48
3489 states in February of 2016. Natural gas prices are naturally
3490 volatile. However, the average price between 1996 and March
3491 2016 was \$4.47. Since LNG exports began, the average price
3492 has been \$3.52.

3493 If there was ever a normal period for LNG exports and
3494 prices, I would say it was from January 2017 to March of
3495 2020, the time just before COVID kicked in, and when LNG
3496 exports were quickly ramping up. During this period prices
3497 averaged \$2.82, and LNG exports roughly increased by a factor
3498 of 4.

3499 At Biden's inauguration in January of 2021, prices were
3500 \$2.71. LNG exports were around 11 billion cubic feet per
3501 day. Today LNG exports are about 13 billion cubic feet per
3502 day, and today's spot price was \$2.43. Prices are lower than
3503 when he was inaugurated, and shipments were 15 percent
3504 higher.

3505 So what I contend is that history shows us that
3506 increasing LNG exports does not increase the natural gas
3507 prices at home. I oppose the amendment.

3508 *Mr. Curtis. The gentlewoman yields. If there is no
3509 further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment.

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3510 And all those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

3511 Okay, I -- all those opposed?

3512 The nays have it.

3513 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, can I ask for the yeas and
3514 nays?

3515 *Mr. Curtis. Yes. On that, a requested roll call vote.
3516 The clerk will call the roll.

3517 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

3518 [No response.]

3519 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta?

3520 *Mr. Latta. No.

3521 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes no.

3522 Rep. Guthrie?

3523 [No response.]

3524 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith?

3525 [No response.]

3526 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

3527 *Mr. Johnson. No.

3528 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes no.

3529 Rep. Bucshon?

3530 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]

3531 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes no.

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3532 Rep. Walberg?
3533 *Mr. Walberg. No.
3534 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes no.
3535 Rep. Palmer?
3536 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3537 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes no.
3538 Rep. Curtis?
3539 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
3540 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes no.
3541 Rep. Lesko?
3542 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
3543 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes no.
3544 Rep. Pence?
3545 *Mr. Pence. No.
3546 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes no.
3547 Rep. Armstrong?
3548 [No response.]
3549 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber?
3550 [No response.]
3551 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson?
3552 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3553 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes no.

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3554 Rep. Pfluger?
3555 *Mr. Pfluger. [Inaudible.]
3556 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes no.
3557 Rep. Rodgers?
3558 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
3559 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes no.
3560 Rep. Duncan?
3561 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
3562 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes no.
3563 Rep. DeGette?
3564 *Ms. DeGette. [Inaudible.]
3565 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes aye.
3566 Rep. Peters?
3567 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
3568 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes aye.
3569 Rep. Fletcher?
3570 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3571 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes aye.
3572 Rep. Matsui?
3573 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3574 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes aye.
3575 Rep. Tonko?

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3576 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3577 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes aye.
3578 Rep. Veasey?
3579 [No response.]
3580 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
3581 [No response.]
3582 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier?
3583 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
3584 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes aye.
3585 Rep. Castor?
3586 [No response.]
3587 *The Clerk. Rep. Sarbanes?
3588 [No response.]
3589 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
3590 *Mr. Cardenas. [Inaudible.]
3591 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes aye.
3592 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
3593 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Aye.
3594 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
3595 Rep. Pallone?
3596 *Mr. Pallone. [Inaudible.]
3597 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes aye.

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3598 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

3599 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes no.

3600 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes no.

3601 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes no.

3602 Rep. Armstrong?

3603 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

3604 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes no.

3605 Rep. Weber?

3606 *Mr. Weber. No.

3607 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes no.

3608 *Mr. Duncan. [Presiding] Any other member not recorded?

3609 The clerk will report the total.

3610 [Pause.]

3611 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 9 ayes

3612 and 16 noes.

3613 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it. The amendment is not

3614 agreed to.

3615 So the pending question is forwarding H.R. 1130 to the

3616 full committee.

3617 All those in favor will say aye?

3618 Those opposed, no.

3619 And the ayes have it.

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3620 *Voice. A recorded vote, Mr. Chair.

3621 *Mr. Duncan. A recorded vote has been requested. The
3622 clerk will call out the roll.

3623 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

3624 [No response.]

3625

3626 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta?

3627 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3628 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.

3629 Rep. Guthrie?

3630 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

3631 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.

3632 Rep. Griffith?

3633 [No response.]

3634 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson?

3635 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.

3636 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.

3637 Rep. Bucshon?

3638 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3639 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon votes aye.

3640 Rep. Walberg?

3641 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

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3642 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
3643 Rep. Palmer?
3644 [No response.]
3645 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis?
3646 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
3647 *The Clerk. Rep. Curtis votes aye.
3648 Rep. Lesko?
3649 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
3650 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
3651 Rep. Pence?
3652 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
3653 *The Clerk. Rep. Pence votes aye.
3654 Rep. Armstrong?
3655 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.
3656 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.
3657 Rep. Weber?
3658 [No response.]
3659 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson?
3660 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]
3661 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
3662 Rep. Pfluger?
3663 *Mr. Pfluger. [Inaudible.]

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3664 *The Clerk. Rep. Pfluger votes aye.
3665 Rep. Rodgers?
3666 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
3667 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
3668 Rep. Duncan?
3669 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
3670 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
3671 Rep. DeGette?
3672 *Ms. DeGette. No.
3673 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.
3674 Rep. Peters?
3675 [No response.]
3676
3677 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher?
3678 *Mrs. Fletcher. [Inaudible.]
3679 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes no.
3680 Rep. Matsui?
3681 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3682 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.
3683 Rep. Tonko?
3684 *Mr. Tonko. No.
3685 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3686 Rep. Veasey?
3687 [No response.]
3688 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
3689 [No response.]
3690 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier?
3691 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
3692 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.
3693 Rep. Castor?
3694 [No response.]
3695 *The Clerk. Rep. Sarbanes?
3696 [No response.]
3697 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
3698 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
3699 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.
3700 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
3701 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. [Inaudible.]
3702 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes no.
3703 Rep. Pallone?
3704 *Mr. Pallone. [Inaudible.]
3705 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.
3706 *Mr. Duncan. Is any member not recorded?
3707 Mr. Griffith?

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3708 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Griffith votes yes.
3709 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes aye.
3710 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Palmer recorded?
3711 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
3712 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
3713 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
3714 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Peters recorded?
3715 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.
3716 *Mr. Peters. No.
3717 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
3718 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member not recorded?
3719 Mr. -- how is Mr. Weber recorded?
3720 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes aye.
3721 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3722 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members?
3723 The clerk will report the total.
3724 [Pause.]
3725 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 16 ayes
3726 and 9 noes.
3727 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it. The bill is agreed to,
3728 and will be sent to full committee.
3729 The chair will now call up H.R. 1115, and ask the clerk

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3730 to report.

3731 *The Clerk. H.R. 1115 to provide for Federal and state
3732 agency coordination in the approval of certain authorizations
3733 under the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes.

3734 *Mr. Duncan. Without --

3735 *The Clerk. Section 1 --

3736 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
3737 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
3738 amendment at any time.

3739 So ordered.

3740 [The bill follows:]

3741

3742 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3743

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3744 *Mr. Duncan. Any bipartisan amendments to be offered?

3745 The chair will recognize Mr. Balderson to explain the
3746 bill.

3747 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3748 H.R. 1115 would also establish a deadline of 90 days
3749 after FERC has completed a NEPA review for Federal
3750 authorization of a project, and requires FERC to notify
3751 Congress if that deadline will not be met.

3752 If passed, H.R. 1115 would guarantee accountability and
3753 transparency from FERC during a coordinated Federal, state,
3754 and local NEPA review process to ensure growth and security
3755 for America's energy sector.

3756 I am also offering an amendment to H.R. 1115. This
3757 amendment simply sets deadlines on FERC to identify, invite,
3758 and designate agencies that it must cooperate with in the
3759 pipeline permit review process.

3760 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3761 *Mr. Duncan. Any further discussion?

3762 Mr. Cardenas is recognized.

3763 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like
3764 to strike the last word on H.R. 115 [sic].

3765 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3766 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak in
3767 opposition of H.R. 115 [sic], the Promoting Interagency
3768 Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act.

3769 There is a growing body of research that shows exposure
3770 to fossil fuel pollution is linked to negative health
3771 impacts. Time and time again, science has told us that oil,
3772 gas, and coal activity poison our air and water, and
3773 contribute to the climate crisis. To protect the health of
3774 our communities and to combat climate change, we must be
3775 thoughtful and and intentional about the legislation we
3776 consider.

3777 Not only does this bill fail to pivot to a more
3778 sustainable energy model, but it cuts out the very
3779 communities that have borne the brunt of pollution. This is
3780 deeply -- this is a deeply flawed bill, and would approve
3781 without proper consideration the construction of new natural
3782 gas pipelines, and undermine critically necessary
3783 environmental review processes. It undercuts public
3784 transparency and input from communities, and codifies into
3785 statute deadlines to shut out every agency, apart from the
3786 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, from this process.

3787 When FERC testified in front of the -- this subcommittee

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3788 years ago on this bill, it laid out many of these concerns,
3789 concerns that have not been addressed in the last six years
3790 since. Not a word of this bill has changed since it passed
3791 the House in 2017 only to die in the Republican-controlled
3792 Senate.

3793 My colleagues on the other side of the aisle today may
3794 claim that they have gone through regular order, but regular
3795 order should not be a series of items on a list that can be
3796 mindlessly ticked off. It should be a process of good faith
3797 engagement on a bill, which has been lacking here in this
3798 case. This bill, amongst many others today, only shows us
3799 that our Republican colleagues are willing to push through
3800 poor policy and sacrifice the well-being of the American
3801 people so that Big Oil executives can reap more profits.

3802 Again, we know the impacts that reckless fossil fuel
3803 expansion has on our communities, especially those that have
3804 been historically left behind. We cannot be so reckless with
3805 this -- with the health and well-being of the American
3806 people, and we most certainly cannot be so reckless with the
3807 future of our children and grandchildren.

3808 If Republicans are serious about wanting to engage on
3809 ideas that can help build cleaner energy faster, I would

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3810 advise them to work with all of us on this committee. Until
3811 then, I urge opposition of this bill, and I yield back, Mr.
3812 Chairman.

3813 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further
3814 discussion on the bill?

3815 Mr. Palmer from Alabama is recognized. For what purpose
3816 do you seek recognition?

3817 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak in
3818 support of the bill, and, you know, I am going to keep
3819 pounding this point: hydrocarbons are essential to human
3820 prosperity.

3821 We keep hearing this dogma or propaganda about how much
3822 damage has been done. I have -- this is government data
3823 here. I mentioned earlier that, even though our economy has
3824 grown 142 percent since 1970, CO2 emissions have gone down 32
3825 percent, overall emissions of the 6 criteria gases that the
3826 EPA tracks have gone down 86 percent -- I want to point out,
3827 though, that -- how the hydrocarbon energy impacts whole
3828 countries.

3829 In the Human Index Development -- Human Development
3830 Index, India moved from low to medium on that index. But let
3831 me tell you what that means. Because they built out -- they

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3832 began to build out their energy infrastructure, education
3833 increased by 2.2 times, and the life expectancy increased by
3834 11.8 years. China did the same thing. They moved from low
3835 to high in the Human Development index, Mr. Chairman, and
3836 their energy -- their life expectancy increased 7.8 years.
3837 Now, does that sound like hydrocarbon-based energy is
3838 destructive to the human condition? Does it sound like it is
3839 compromising human prosperity?

3840 We have got nearly three billion people worldwide that
3841 don't have access to adequate energy resources that we could
3842 meet with natural gas. There is 900 million people in
3843 sub-Saharan Africa that don't have access to electricity,
3844 they are cooking their food with -- indoors, with things like
3845 cow dung. But we want to deny them natural gas.

3846 I argued on this committee and previous committees for
3847 two or three years for the people in Pembroke Township in
3848 Illinois to get natural gas. It is a town of 2,100 people,
3849 85 percent of whom are African American. They were heating
3850 their homes with propane and wood, cooking their food with
3851 propane. I am happy to report, through the efforts of Jesse
3852 Jackson and other key civil rights leaders, that Pembroke
3853 Township now has a natural gas pipeline.

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3854 It is essential to human prosperity, to the improvement
3855 of the human condition, and I am really astonished at the
3856 rhetoric that I continue to hear that makes it sound as
3857 though this is a horrible thing for the people of this
3858 country, especially when, as I have reported earlier, there
3859 is 20 million people behind on their --

3860 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield?

3861 *Mr. Palmer. -- the utilities.

3862 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield?

3863 *Mr. Palmer. Happily.

3864 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you. You make some great points.
3865 There are so many people around the world who can't keep food
3866 fresh, who cook and heat their homes or their domiciles with
3867 wood, even animal dung. The air quality in those homes is
3868 pretty low.

3869 Through the export of American LNG, which we have an
3870 abundance of natural gas in this country, export of that to,
3871 as you pointed out, sub-Saharan Africa and other places around
3872 the globe will definitely improve the quality of life for
3873 those people. We have an abundance to meet all of our energy
3874 needs here in America, and the ability to export that.

3875 This bill is well thought-out, and is the right thing to

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3876 do, and I appreciate the gentleman pointing that out, and I
3877 yield back.

3878 *Mr. Palmer. My last point on this is there is a
3879 village in India where Greenpeace went in. They got --
3880 invested some money to build a microgrid -- renewable grid
3881 for this little village called Dharnai. And they supposedly
3882 would make this little village energy independent. They are
3883 now using those facilities for cattle sheds because, as we
3884 all know, these things don't last forever, and they couldn't
3885 afford to replace them. But even when they had it, Mr.
3886 Chairman, they didn't generate enough power, to your point,
3887 to run refrigerators, or water pumps, things that are
3888 absolutely essential to the wellbeing of people.

3889 And as I pointed out earlier, we want to move people
3890 into the modern world, into a modern economy. And frankly,
3891 again, I am just astonished at what I am hearing from people
3892 in our attempts to try to maintain our economic security and
3893 our national security by strengthening our hydrocarbon power
3894 grid.

3895 I yield back.

3896 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further
3897 discussion?

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3898 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman?

3899 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Weber is recognized.

3900 *Mr. Weber. I move to strike the last words. Thank
3901 you, Mr. Chairman.

3902 In Alex Epstein's book, "The Moral Case for Fossil
3903 Fuels," he actually lays out the fact, Mr. Palmer, that what
3904 we do provides people in less -- less fortunate people in
3905 those under-developed countries with adequate energy that
3906 helps -- actually helps the women and the girls the most,
3907 because they spend so much of their time having to walk to
3908 the river or their source of water, the females do. They
3909 spend so much of their time cooking, having to go get food
3910 every day because they don't have refrigeration -- in fact,
3911 he makes the case in his book that most of those households
3912 have the amount of electricity that is equal to one -- a year
3913 that is equal to the amount of energy it takes to run one of
3914 our refrigerators.

3915 So they are severely under-developed countries. They
3916 need fossil fuel to get out of the Dark Ages. We are trying
3917 to help. And I join my colleague from Alabama in saying I
3918 don't understand why all the pushback on our ability to help
3919 those downtrodden people in those countries.

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3920 And so with that, Mr. Chairman, I want my colleagues,
3921 hopefully, to support this, and I yield back.

3922 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any other
3923 further discussion?

3924 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for the purpose of
3925 offering an amendment.

3926 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
3927 amendment at the desk.

3928 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

3929 *The Clerk. Can the member please specify the
3930 amendment?

3931 *Mr. Balderson. It is amendment No. 012.

3932 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1115, offered by Rep.
3933 Balderson. Page 3, beginning on line 23, strike "as early as
3934 practicable after it is notified by a person applying for,"`
3935 and insert, "not later than 30 days after the Commission
3936 receives an application for."`

3937 Page 4, line 9, strike "the"`` and insert "not later than
3938 45 days after the Commission receives an application for an
3939 authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, or a
3940 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under section
3941 7 of such act, the."`

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3942 Page 4, line 19, strike "the'\' and insert "not later
3943 than 60 days after the Commission receives an application for
3944 an authorization under section'\' --

3945 *Mr. Duncan. Further of the amendment is dispensed
3946 with.

3947 [The amendment of Mr. Balderson follows:]

3948

3949 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3950

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3951 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized to
3952 explain the amendment.

3953 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
3954 amendment simply sets deadlines on FERC to identify, invite,
3955 and designate agencies it must cooperate with in the pipeline
3956 permit review process.

3957 *Mr. Duncan. I thank the gentleman. Any further
3958 discussion on the amendment?

3959 Seeing none, the pending question is approval of the
3960 amendment, adoption of the amendment.

3961 All those in favor, say aye.

3962 Any opposed?

3963 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The
3964 amendment is agreed to.

3965 Now the pending question is adoption of the bill, as
3966 amended.

3967 Yes, Mr. Tonko, for what purpose do you seek
3968 recognition?

3969 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.
3970 I believe it is numbered AMDT02.

3971 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

3972 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1115, offered by Rep.

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3973 Tonko. Beginning on page 5, strike line 10 and all that
3974 follows through page 6, line -

3975 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the reading of the
3976 amendment is dispensed with.

3977 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

3978

3979 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3980

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3981 *Mr. Duncan. And now we will discuss the amendment.

3982 Mr. Tonko is recognized to explain the amendment.

3983 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. In my view, if we
3984 want to get energy infrastructure of any type built more
3985 quickly, it starts by having more consultation with impacted
3986 communities earlier in the process, not less. This gives
3987 everyone a fair chance to understand a potential project, its
3988 benefits and its drawbacks, and make an informed decision on
3989 whether or not and under which conditions to lend their
3990 support.

3991 This legislation broadly suffers from the misguided
3992 thinking, in my view, that limiting processes for community
3993 engagement and environmental review is the best way to get
3994 these projects built. So while I broadly have concerns with
3995 the bill, my amendment would narrowly focus on one paragraph
3996 that I hope members can agree is doing a disservice to our
3997 state, local, and tribal partners that have such an important
3998 role to play in project permitting.

3999 Subsection D of H.R. 1115 requires that FERC identify
4000 what the bill calls participating agencies: any Federal or
4001 state agency, along with any local or tribal governments that
4002 have a say in pipeline authorizations through a specific

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4003 community.

4004 However, subsection d(f) of the bill then goes on to say
4005 that any agency not identified by FERC gets zero say in the
4006 environmental review process, even if it will play a major
4007 role in authorizing a pipeline, and should be brought in from
4008 the beginning of the process.

4009 Under the bill, non-designated agencies cannot request
4010 that additional information be included in an environmental
4011 review. They are actually specifically forbidden from
4012 carrying out a supplemental environmental review. And
4013 perhaps most egregiously, FERC is prohibited from considering
4014 any of their comments on an environmental review, and from
4015 even including those comments in the record.

4016 Surely we can all see how this opens up potential for
4017 abuse. Even the most well-intentioned bureaucracy may not
4018 correctly identify every single local, state, or tribal
4019 agency involved in pipeline approvals. The bill, as written,
4020 does not care if FERC makes a mistake. A non-designated
4021 agency is unable to have its comments and expertise included
4022 in FERC's process.

4023 This could also go downhill quickly if, for political
4024 reasons, agencies were purposefully left off the list of

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4025 designated agencies. Then FERC would be free to ignore their
4026 comments and render its environmental review as it saw fit,
4027 potentially without feedback from the state, from the local
4028 or tribal agencies with the most connection and information
4029 to the actual site in question.

4030 My amendment is simple. It would delete the part of the
4031 bill that puts restrictions on non-designated agencies. It
4032 does not impact FERC's ability to designate and coordinate
4033 with agencies it identifies. It just removes the
4034 prohibitions on agencies that are not designated. I think
4035 this is a common-sense amendment that will ensure state,
4036 local, and tribal agencies are not left out of environmental
4037 review for permitting decisions that directly affect their
4038 communities.

4039 And with that, I urge my colleagues to adopt this
4040 amendment --

4041 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

4042 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I yield back.

4043 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

4044 *Mr. Tonko. Yes, I will.

4045 *Ms. DeGette. I thank the gentleman. I support the
4046 gentleman's amendment.

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4047 And I also -- I don't want to dwell on it, but I just
4048 want to say very briefly, with respect to this comment about
4049 women and girls in third-world countries need fossil fuels
4050 for cooking, you know, study after study has shown that
4051 climate change just vastly disproportionately impacts third-
4052 world countries in negative ways. And it is true that women,
4053 girls, villages, everybody needs energy in third-world
4054 countries. But the evidence is not clear -- in fact, it is
4055 to the contrary -- that they need fossil fuels, which will
4056 only exacerbate climate change.

4057 And so I would say this is part of what I think we
4058 should do. Rather than just going through the old, tired
4059 talking points about about energy policy, we should work
4060 together across the aisle to capitalize on American
4061 ingenuity, try to find energy sources that will work not just
4062 in the U.S., but around the world that we can export to help
4063 improve everybody's situation, and not exacerbate climate
4064 change.

4065 And I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I yield back
4066 to him.

4067 *Mr. Tonko. And I yield back.

4068 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any further

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4069 discussion?

4070 Mr. Palmer is recognized.

4071 *Mr. Palmer. And again, I just want to point out that
4072 the World Health Organization estimates that using indoor
4073 cooking, as they do in sub-Saharan Africa, having to cook
4074 indoors with wood, or food debris, or cow dung was linked to
4075 nearly 500,000 premature deaths.

4076 I don't think those -- that -- when you have that many
4077 people dying because they don't have access to reliable
4078 energy, that they would be all that concerned about climate
4079 change. I don't think for them that is the existential
4080 threat. There is 900 million people in sub-Saharan Africa
4081 alone. That is one out of -- that is five of six people that
4082 don't have access to reliable energy.

4083 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield?

4084 *Mr. Palmer. Absolutely.

4085 *The Chair. Would the gentleman speak to the role
4086 natural gas has played in bringing down carbon emissions
4087 worldwide and in the United States of America?

4088 *Mr. Palmer. Happily. As I pointed out, that --
4089 because the United States conversion from coal-fired energy
4090 generation to natural gas, we have reduced CO2 emissions by

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4091 32 percent.

4092 But I want to go back to what it means to third-world
4093 countries to get reliable power. When you look at India,
4094 with its population about to exceed that of China's, and the
4095 condition of that country, and they have added over 11 years
4096 to life expectancy as they have increased their access to
4097 power, access to reliable energy is foundational to human
4098 prosperity, to human health. And I don't think there is any
4099 way to dispute that.

4100 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield?

4101 *Mr. Palmer. Absolutely.

4102 *Mr. Duncan. I read an article recently about a much-
4103 heralded project in India, where a solar farm was created.
4104 The whole village was going to be on renewable energy. In
4105 about a year's time that system was non-functional. Money
4106 wasn't available to upgrade it, and batteries were failing.
4107 They switched back to coal-fired power plants.

4108 There is a lot of research and other things that need to
4109 go on in order to make renewables actually work for places
4110 that you mentioned -- Sub-Saharan Africa, India, and other
4111 places -- that if renewables can be part of it, I am all for
4112 it. But we know what works. We know that natural gas can

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4113 provide the needed power, and it can be transported and put
4114 in huge tanks for the small village to power their generators
4115 and refrigerators or whatnot to improve the quality of life
4116 of people around the globe.

4117 And the twist to it is we have an abundance of natural
4118 gas in this country, so much that it is not even measurable,
4119 really. They try. We have enough gas to meet all of our
4120 energy needs here in America, and export it to help others
4121 around the globe, the millions, hundreds of millions, that
4122 you mentioned. We should be doing that. We should be doing
4123 that, producing that natural gas here and exporting it to
4124 help folks live better lives, healthier lives around the
4125 globe.

4126 I yield back.

4127 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, I associate myself with your
4128 comments, and it might be of some value at some point for
4129 this committee to take a congressional delegation trip to
4130 Sub-Saharan Africa and some of these places and perhaps let
4131 our colleagues across the aisle explain to them why they
4132 shouldn't have access to reliable energy, and then let them
4133 explain to us why, if we are not going to be in the business
4134 of providing it, they will turn to the communist Chinese to

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4135 do it, because China is doing that. The Communist Chinese
4136 Party is investing itself, investing in these energy
4137 infrastructure, and they are doing it through coal.

4138 So I think it would be a difficult argument to make to
4139 these 900 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa who are having
4140 to cook indoors with things that pollute the indoor air and
4141 that are killing half a million people over since -- over the
4142 last five years. I think that number is since 2018.

4143 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield?

4144 *Mr. Palmer. Yes, ma'am.

4145 *The Chair. I think another aspect of this, because we
4146 are advocating for an all-of-the-above, we believe that we
4147 need to unleash American energy, natural gas, oil, hydro,
4148 nuclear, wind, solar, batteries.

4149 But I mentioned in my opening comments China is the one
4150 that controls the green energy materials. You know, they
4151 have been termed the OPEC of green materials. You know, 70
4152 percent of cobalt and lithium, 90 percent of rare earth
4153 minerals. We have also talked about the mines in Congo. I
4154 think we all need to recognize that some of the realities
4155 around any source of energy.

4156 And I yield back.

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4157 *Mr. Palmer. I will just add this before I yield.

4158 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time has expired.

4159 *Mr. Palmer. I realize my time has expired, but not one
4160 time have we said we are against renewables. Not one time.
4161 I yield back.

4162 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time has expired. Any
4163 further discussion?

4164 Mr. Cardenas of California is recognized.

4165 *Mr. Cardenas. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Assuming
4166 we are still on the amendment, I would like to move to strike
4167 the last word on the amendment.

4168 I just want to state for the record, a lot of truths
4169 have been mentioned by some of my colleagues on the
4170 Republican side of the aisle, but what I do want to correct
4171 for the record is that a lot of examples of micro situations,
4172 where certain communities or certain projects try to go to
4173 renewable energy or what have you, and found that renewable
4174 energy or processes on their own did not work out very well,
4175 I don't know the details of the projects, the ultimate
4176 details of the projects that were just mentioned, but there
4177 are failures in American history and world history on energy,
4178 and many other examples where bad design or great intentions

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4179 but bad implementation has resulted in bad results.

4180 But what I do want to state for the record, and I would
4181 love for us to have the debate, and even bring our military
4182 leaders before us, because even our military leaders are
4183 telling the United States Congress -- and they have said it
4184 more than once on the record -- that the number-one threat to
4185 peace on earth is the climate change that is occurring where
4186 more and more people across America and around the world are
4187 experiencing bad climate crises that are forcing people to
4188 migrate away from where they want to live and where they
4189 naturally live, and that is the biggest threat to world
4190 peace.

4191 And even our own military recognizes that they have to
4192 change their ways and be less dependent on fossil fuel, not
4193 100 percent no longer dependent on fossil fuel, but less
4194 dependent on fossil fuel because of the adverse effects that
4195 the byproducts of fossil fuels causes on the world climate.

4196 So I would love to have that debate, but I just thought
4197 it was important for us to put into context that, yes, on any
4198 given day, anybody in any committee in Congress or any
4199 conversation in some coffeehouse across America can point to
4200 some bad projects, projects right here in America, projects

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4201 anywhere in the world where bad design, bad implementation
4202 results in "Aha, it didn't work.'" But let me tell you, even
4203 our own United States military says that the number-one
4204 threat to our safety in our country and peace on the planet
4205 has to do with climate change.

4206 *Mr. Pfluger. Will the gentleman --

4207 *Mr. Cardenas. Even they admit that they are having to
4208 clean up their act.

4209 *Mr. Pfluger. Will the gentleman yield?

4210 *Mr. Cardenas. Yes, I will.

4211 *Mr. Pfluger. Mr. Cardenas, I am just going to have to
4212 push back just a little bit on that statement. I am still
4213 serving in the military, as a Reserve colonel. I have never
4214 heard that. The number-one threat coming from our military
4215 leaders is China.

4216 And we recently had a witness that sat here and said air
4217 knows no boundaries. And yet just this week, China has
4218 already announced the continuation and, in fact, the increase
4219 of their coal-fired plants.

4220 And to a previous point, if we are really concerned
4221 about the climate, then what we should be doing is exporting
4222 our own good air. Over the last 6 or 7 years, we have

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4223 decreased those emissions, as was previously mentioned for
4224 for CO2, 32 percent, while we have increased LNG production
4225 tenfold on the export side.

4226 Additionally, methane, when you look at the decrease in
4227 the reduction of methane emissions, it is 14 percent.

4228 So I want us to work together on energy, and how we
4229 produce electricity, and what we do. But I do not think that
4230 there is any military leader out there that is saying
4231 anything about the largest existential threat to our country
4232 from a military standpoint is climate change. I think that
4233 is false.

4234 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Pfluger. I am not going
4235 to argue that China is one of the biggest threats to our
4236 national security and security on Earth. But it is not
4237 mutually exclusive.

4238 And yes, I would love for this committee or any
4239 committee of Congress to call the leaders of our military
4240 forward and ask them specific questions about China and/or
4241 about climate change and what it is doing to the cause of
4242 migration of people around the planet. And as was mentioned
4243 earlier, some of the most -- the people on the planet who are
4244 threatened the most by climate change, and who need to find

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4245 better solutions for their energy needs are, in fact, the
4246 poorest people on the planet.

4247 And so I look forward to that opportunity for us to have
4248 that debate and that discussion with the folks that you have
4249 mentioned and I have mentioned, as well. And thank you for
4250 your service.

4251 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman?

4252 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time has expired. The
4253 chair will recognize Mr. Griffith from Virginia for five
4254 minutes.

4255 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are
4256 talking past each other.

4257 Is -- when we talk about climate change as the number-
4258 one problem in the world, and it is going to bring
4259 instability to the planet, it is like we can't use fossil
4260 fuels to effect a positive result on climate change. And it
4261 drives me crazy, because we have roughly 300 million people
4262 in India that don't have reliable power, we have people in
4263 Sub-Saharan Africa that don't have reliable power. They have
4264 dirty coal. They have coal they can mine.

4265 The Chinese are not only building plants -- as Mr.
4266 Pfluger pointed out -- in their own country, they are

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4267 building them in Sub-Saharan Africa to help those people.
4268 They are garnering goodwill all over the world using
4269 antiquated technology, when we in this country not only have
4270 better technology, we are constantly working on better
4271 technology.

4272 Recently, I went to visit with some folks who are
4273 associated or part of Consol Energy. It was exciting because
4274 the methane leaking out of existing coal mines and abandoned
4275 coal mines can be captured by this new technology they have.
4276 And if we really are serious about solving the climate
4277 issues, and reducing the amount of natural gas and CO2
4278 methane that escapes and CO2 in the air, we should be using
4279 American technology to make the use of our fossil fuels
4280 better and better.

4281 And then we can export our technology, not antiquated
4282 technology from China using 1960s and 1970s technology, but
4283 21st century technology that the United States can produce
4284 and give or sell, whichever is the right way to do it, to
4285 countries in the world who are just trying to make sure that
4286 their folks have the power to heat their homes if they need
4287 them, to provide cooking abilities, to provide them with
4288 modern technologies, because they are all going to be using -

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4289 - they are all using these smartphones. We need to be
4290 providing that, instead of it being provided by antiquated
4291 technology by the Chinese.

4292 And so we are -- it is not that we don't agree that we
4293 need to be looking at how we reduce greenhouse gases, it is
4294 that we ought not throw out the baby with the bathwater and
4295 say we can't use fossil fuels, that we can only use
4296 renewables. We need to be using all of the above where it is
4297 appropriate to use solar and wind, whether it be here or in
4298 the third world or somewhere else. That is fine.

4299 But where it is appropriate to use ways to clean up the
4300 dirty coal they already have, we have that technology
4301 available, too. We are already selling some of that to India
4302 to try to help them with steel production. There are so many
4303 different things that we could be doing, and our companies
4304 are hamstrung, their hands are tied so that they cannot do as
4305 much as they would like to do and invest in new investments
4306 which will help the world and help the U.S. economy.

4307 I appreciate your time, Mr. Chairman, and I will yield
4308 to somebody else or yield back to you, whichever is
4309 preferable.

4310 I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

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4311 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to
4312 strike the last words.

4313 Regarding the comments about -

4314 *Mr. Duncan. Griffith's got the time. He was just
4315 yielding you the time. You got enough time?

4316 *Mr. Griffith. Yes.

4317 *Mr. Weber. Regarding the comments from the other side
4318 of the aisle that we on this side of the aisle are picking
4319 out isolated incidences of little tiny micro electrical
4320 systems and then saying they are failing, it is kind of
4321 interesting to me because I am from Texas. Twenty percent of
4322 our wind -- of our energy is wind energy. Five percent is
4323 solar panels.

4324 This last really hard winter February two years ago, of
4325 course, we found out windmills ice up, solar panels ice up.
4326 They get clouded up, they have snow on them, and they failed
4327 not in a micro sense, but on a huge sense because Texas has
4328 -- 85 percent of its state is in ERCOT, its own power grid.
4329 So the argument somehow that this is just simply a micro grid
4330 doesn't hold water.

4331 And I just want to make the point, Mr. Chairman, as has
4332 been said here, but I think it bears repeating in this

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4333 format, and that is this. We want renewables. We are for
4334 renewables, but renewables cannot be the leading actor in
4335 this play. Renewables can be a supporting actor in this
4336 play, but we are going to need fossil fuels, the President
4337 thinks, for another 10 years. Bless his heart, he is on the
4338 right track. He is just about 100 years short.

4339 And I just want to say that this notion that somehow we
4340 are choosing isolated instances is just false on its face.
4341 We have experienced that, first and foremost, two years ago.
4342 We know what fossil fuels are. We know what renewables are.
4343 Renewables are good. This has been said for many, many
4344 years. We need all of the above.

4345 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's time has expired.

4346 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4347 *Mr. Duncan. The clock was reset prematurely.

4348 We have have about 15 minutes before votes are called on
4349 the floor. So does anyone else want to speak on the
4350 amendment?

4351 Mr. Balderson, quickly.

4352 *Mr. Balderson. No, Mr. Chairman, I just want to move
4353 to strike the last word.

4354 This amendment would significantly alter FERC's ability

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4355 to serve as the lead agency in the natural gas pipeline
4356 review process, which is the intent of this bill.

4357 And I would yield if Mr. Burgess, the author of the
4358 legislation, would like to speak. Go right ahead. I yield
4359 to you, Mr. Burgess.

4360 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Walberg wanted some time, as well.

4361 *Mr. Burgess. In the interest of time, I have nothing
4362 meaningful to add to this conversation. I think we should
4363 defeat the amendment and move on, go to the floor, and vote.

4364 But I will yield to Mr. Walberg.

4365 *Mr. Walberg. In the essence of time, I will save my
4366 speech for another day.

4367 *Mr. Duncan. I thank the gentleman.

4368 If there is not any further discussion on the amendment,
4369 the question is adoption of Mr. Tonko's amendment.

4370 And all those in favor, say aye.

4371 Those opposed, no.

4372 In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

4373 A recorded vote has been requested. The clerk will call
4374 the roll.

4375 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

4376 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

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4377 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes no.

4378 Rep. Latta?

4379 *Mr. Latta. No.

4380 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes no.

4381 Rep. Guthrie?

4382 [No response.]

4383 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith?

4384 *Mr. Griffith. Votes no.

4385 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes no.

4386 Rep. Johnson?

4387 [No response.]

4388 *The Clerk. Rep. Bucshon?

4389 [No response.]

4390 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg?

4391 *Mr. Walberg. No.

4392 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes no.

4393 Rep. Palmer?

4394 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

4395 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes no.

4396 Rep. Curtis?

4397 [No response.]

4398 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko?

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4399 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
4400 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes no.
4401 Rep. Pence?
4402 [No response.]
4403 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong?
4404 *Mr. Armstrong. No.
4405 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes no.
4406 Rep. Weber?
4407 *Mr. Weber. No.
4408 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes no.
4409 Rep. Balderson?
4410 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4411 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes no.
4412 Rep. Pfluger?
4413 [No response.]
4414 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers?
4415 *The Chair. [Inaudible.]
4416 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes no.
4417 Rep. Duncan?
4418 *Mr. Duncan. No.
4419 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes no.
4420 Rep. DeGette?

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4421 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4422 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes aye.
4423 Rep. Peters?
4424 [No response.]
4425 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher?
4426 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4427 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes aye.
4428 Rep. Matsui?
4429 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4430 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes aye.
4431 Rep. Tonko?
4432 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4433 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes aye.
4434 Rep. Veasey?
4435 [No response.]
4436 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?
4437 [No response.]
4438 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier?
4439 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]
4440 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes aye.
4441 Rep. Castor?
4442 [No response.]

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4443 *The Clerk. Rep. Sarbanes?
4444 [No response.]
4445 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?
4446 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
4447 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes aye.
4448 Rep. Blunt Rochester?
4449 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Aye.
4450 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
4451 Rep. Pallone?
4452 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4453 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes aye.
4454 *Mr. Duncan. Any members not recorded?
4455 Mr. Peters, how is Mr. Peters recorded?
4456 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.
4457 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
4458 *The Clerk. Rep. Peters votes aye.
4459 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
4460 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded.
4461 *Mr. Guthrie. [Inaudible.]
4462 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
4463 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Johnson recorded?
4464 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson is not recorded.

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4465 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes no.

4466 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

4467 *Mr. Duncan. Any further members not recorded?

4468 The clerk will report the total.

4469 [Pause.]

4470 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 9 ayes
4471 and 13 noes.

4472 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it, the amendment is not
4473 agreed to.

4474 The pending question is adoption of the bill, as
4475 amended.

4476 A recorded vote?

4477 All those in favor, say aye.

4478 Those opposed, no.

4479 The ayes have it.

4480 She asked for a recorded vote, so the clerk will call
4481 the roll.

4482 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess?

4483 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

4484 *The Clerk. Rep. Burgess votes aye.

4485 Rep. Latta?

4486 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

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4487 *The Clerk. Rep. Latta votes aye.
4488 Rep. Guthrie?
4489 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
4490 *The Clerk. Rep. Guthrie votes aye.
4491 Rep. Griffith?
4492 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
4493 *The Clerk. Rep. Griffith votes aye.
4494 Rep. Johnson?
4495 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.
4496 *The Clerk. Rep. Johnson votes aye.
4497 Rep. Bucshon?
4498 [No response.]
4499 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg?
4500 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
4501 *The Clerk. Rep. Walberg votes aye.
4502 Rep. Palmer?
4503 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
4504 *The Clerk. Rep. Palmer votes aye.
4505 Rep. Curtis?
4506 [No response.]
4507 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko?
4508 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

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4509 *The Clerk. Rep. Lesko votes aye.
4510 Rep. Pence?
4511 [No response.]
4512 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong?
4513 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.
4514 *The Clerk. Rep. Armstrong votes aye.
4515 Rep. Weber?
4516 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4517 *The Clerk. Rep. Weber votes aye.
4518 Rep. Balderson?
4519 *Mr. Balderson. [Inaudible.]
4520 *The Clerk. Rep. Balderson votes aye.
4521 Rep. Pfluger?
4522 [No response.]
4523 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers?
4524 *The Chair. Aye.
4525 *The Clerk. Rep. Rodgers votes aye.
4526 Rep. Duncan?
4527 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
4528 *The Clerk. Rep. Duncan votes aye.
4529 Rep. DeGette?
4530 *Ms. DeGette. [Inaudible.]

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4531 *The Clerk. Rep. DeGette votes no.

4532 Rep. Peters?

4533 [No response.]

4534 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher?

4535 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

4536 *The Clerk. Rep. Fletcher votes no.

4537 Rep. Matsui?

4538 *Ms. Matsui. No.

4539 *The Clerk. Rep. Matsui votes no.

4540 Rep. Tonko?

4541 *Mr. Tonko. No.

4542 *The Clerk. Rep. Tonko votes no.

4543 Rep. Veasey?

4544 [No response.]

4545 *The Clerk. Rep. Kuster?

4546 [No response.]

4547 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier?

4548 *Ms. Schrier. [Inaudible.]

4549 *The Clerk. Rep. Schrier votes no.

4550 Rep. Castor?

4551 [No response.]

4552 *The Clerk. Rep. Sarbanes?

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4553 [No response.]

4554 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas?

4555 *Mr. Cardenas. [Inaudible.]

4556 *The Clerk. Rep. Cardenas votes no.

4557 Rep. Blunt Rochester?

4558 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. [Inaudible.]

4559 *The Clerk. Rep. Blunt Rochester votes no.

4560 Rep. Pallone?

4561 *Mr. Pallone. No.

4562 *The Clerk. Rep. Pallone votes no.

4563 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any members not recorded?

4564 The clerk will report the total.

4565 [Pause.]

4566 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote we have 13 ayes
4567 and 8 noes.

4568 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the bill, as
4569 amended, H.R. 1115, will be sent to the full committee.

4570 The chair now calls up H.R. 1160, and asks the clerk to
4571 report.

4572 *The Clerk. H.R. 1160, to direct the Secretary of
4573 Energy to promulgate regulations to facilitate the timely
4574 submission of notifications regarding cybersecurity incidents

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4575 and potential cybersecurity incidents with respect to
4576 critical electric infrastructure, and for other purposes.

4577 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading of
4578 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
4579 amendment at any time.

4580 So ordered.

4581 [The bill follows:]

4582

4583 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4584

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4585 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any bipartisan amendments to the
4586 bill?

4587 Any other amendments to the bill?

4588 The chair will now recognize Mr. Walberg to explain his
4589 bill.

4590 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. H.R. 1160, the
4591 Critical Electric Infrastructure Cybersecurity Incident
4592 Reporting Act, would amend the Federal Power Act to identify
4593 the Department of Energy as a designated agency to receive
4594 notifications regarding cybersecurity incidents with respect
4595 to critical electric infrastructure.

4596 Cyber attacks on energy infrastructure reached record
4597 highs in 2022. We are facing a dangerous combination.
4598 Nation states and bad actors are getting better at targeting
4599 our critical energy assets, while our energy grid is aging
4600 and becoming more vulnerable. We only had a glimpse of how
4601 damaging an energy sector cyber attack could be when Colonial
4602 Pipeline suffered a ransomware attack in 2021. Forty-five
4603 percent of pipeline operators were affected. More than 17
4604 states declared a state of emergency, and consumers were hit
4605 with higher gas prices due to supply shortage.

4606 Just this past week, over 900,000 consumers in southern

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4607 Michigan after a Wednesday ice storm lost power. My home, as
4608 well. Ninety thousand consumers are still without power as
4609 of last night. A widespread attack on our electric grid
4610 would even be more devastating.

4611 Department of Energy was established by the FAST Act as
4612 the right agency when it comes to energy cybersecurity. The
4613 legislation would direct the agency to develop regulations
4614 that will add more clarity on the scope and scale of
4615 cybersecurity incidents that require reporting.

4616 It also charges them with establishing procedures for
4617 reporting potential cybersecurity incidents. These actions
4618 will help companies quickly respond to increasing attacks and
4619 install preventative measures.

4620 I understand there have been some concerns about
4621 potential duplication of reporting requirements. But this is
4622 just the first step in the committee process for a bill.

4623 Cybersecurity is a national security issue and, most
4624 importantly, it has critical assets which require the
4625 attention of experts across the Federal Government to ensure
4626 Americans are safe.

4627 I want to thank Representative Schrier for joining me in
4628 introducing this legislation. I look forward to working with

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4629 her, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and industry
4630 to improve the bill before we move to the full committee.

4631 I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation so
4632 that we can continue the conversation and move it forward in
4633 the committee process.

4634 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4635 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. The chair will
4636 now go to the cosponsor of the bill, Ms. Schrier, for five
4637 minutes.

4638 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank
4639 Mr. Walberg for working with me on this. And when it comes
4640 to our national security, cybersecurity is a major concern,
4641 as you just pointed out.

4642 Broadly, Department of Homeland Security manages these
4643 threats, and is the point agency. But our energy systems are
4644 different. Power plants, the electric grid are high-risk,
4645 prime targets, as we have already seen, and as Mr. Walberg
4646 just pointed out. So when it comes to our critical electric
4647 infrastructure, we really need the expertise and involvement
4648 of the Department of Energy, and they have got to play a key
4649 role.

4650 We recently had a legislative hearing on this bill. It

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4651 has bipartisan support.

4652 I would just like to flag, along with my colleague, that
4653 this is one step in a longer process, and stakeholder
4654 feedback is critical. So I am committed, along with Mr.
4655 Walberg and the other members of this committee, to ensure
4656 that we can properly protect the cybersecurity of our power
4657 system, and ensure the Department of Energy has the
4658 appropriate key place at the table because of their expertise
4659 when it comes to energy transmission and grid nuance.

4660 So again, we are getting more feedback from stakeholders
4661 whose input we didn't have at the beginning. And I have
4662 heard from many of the utilities in Washington State about
4663 their concerns. And I think we can find the right balance
4664 and protect our grid.

4665 Thank you very much. I yield back.

4666 Oh, I yield to Mr. Cardenas.

4667 *Mr. Cardenas. Will the gentlewoman yield? I want to
4668 say something nice.

4669 [Laughter.]

4670 *Mr. Cardenas. I would like to thank Congressman
4671 Walberg and Congresswoman Schrier, Dr. Schrier, for working
4672 together on this. This is a perfect example of what we can

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4673 do together when we do cooperate, when we do give each other
4674 enough time and respect to dialogue and agree and disagree or
4675 what have you.

4676 I think it is nine bills that we are hearing today, but
4677 here we have a bill that is bipartisan. And hopefully, we
4678 can get back to more of those days with -- where we can have
4679 -- I remember in this committee, early on when I got on this
4680 committee, we didn't hear about it in the press, but we had
4681 marked up 41 bills that day. One bill was withdrawn. And if
4682 I think my memory serves me correctly, there was one bill
4683 where it wasn't bipartisan, and 39 bills were fully 100
4684 percent bipartisan, a yes vote by every Democrat and every
4685 Republican on this committee.

4686 So hopefully, we can get back to those days and,
4687 hopefully, we can all, Republicans and Democrats, trumpet
4688 bills like this one and -- when we do find ourselves working
4689 together for the American people and also to improve the
4690 world. I just wanted to say thank you. And on a positive
4691 note, this is a great bill. Thank you.

4692 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentlelady yield? I just want
4693 you to notice for the record how far apart the representative
4694 and I are. So all of you in between ought to come together

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4695 easily on this bill.

4696 [Laughter.]

4697 *Ms. Schrier. Yes, and yet how close we are at the same
4698 time. I yield back.

4699 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. Any further
4700 discussion?

4701 Mrs. Lesko, you are recognized for five minutes.

4702 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you. I move to strike the last
4703 word.

4704 As was mentioned specifically, the American Public Power
4705 Association had written me a letter and -- with some
4706 concerns. And so I look forward to working with the sponsors
4707 to see if we can mitigate those concerns.

4708 And with that, I yield back.

4709 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

4710 If no further discussion, we will now move to vote.

4711 All those in favor of passage to the full committee will
4712 say aye.

4713 Any opposed?

4714 And the ayes have it.

4715 So that concludes the markup, nine bills, and I am glad
4716 we did, Tony, end on a positive note. So thanks for pointing

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4717 that out.

4718 *Mr. Cardenas. Mr. Chairman, when would be the time to
4719 announce submitting an article for the record?

4720 I ask unanimous consent to submit for the record an
4721 article: "Defense Secretary Calls Climate Change an
4722 Existential Threat," dated April 22nd, 2021, article written
4723 by David Verhagen, and I forwarded it to the staff already.

4724 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection.

4725 [The information follows:]

4726

4727 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4728

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4729 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you so much.

4730 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, staff is authorized to
4731 make technical and conforming changes to legislation approved
4732 by the subcommittee today.

4733 So ordered.

4734 Without objection, the subcommittee stands adjourned.

4735 [Whereupon, at 1:31 p.m., the subcommittee was
4736 adjourned.]