

Rep. Robert E. Latta
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Markup
May 16, 2023
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this important markup.

I wanted to briefly speak in favor of the full Committee Chairwoman's legislation, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, of which I am an original cosponsor.

For several Congresses now, I have advocated for policies that would help our domestic nuclear industry build up their supply chains and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign nations for nuclear fuels. This is a matter of energy security and national security.

I previously led a legislative effort to authorize the establishment of a uranium reserve, and more recently, introduced legislation to establish and expand domestic nuclear fuels programs.

In the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is critical that the United States immediately stops subsidizing Putin's war through the continued importation of Russian fuels. I applaud the Chairwoman for her leadership in crafting this legislation and look forward to discussing it today.

I am happy that my legislation and this effort to ban Russian uranium imports have both spurred a conversation surrounding the need to boost the domestic fuels market, and I hope we can advance this effort in a bipartisan way.

After having discussions with industry and other stakeholders, I believe the Chairwoman's legislation takes the right approach in sending a critical market signal that Russian uranium imports will be cut off and industry will need to focus on new fuel sourcing.

At the same time, I also believe we have more work to do to help grow our domestic supply of HA-LEU (hay-loo). I hope to work with the Chairwoman, the Subcommittee Chairman, and my colleagues from across the aisle to update my legislation to reflect new feedback before it is considered by our Subcommittee.

Later, I will be offering an amendment to H.R. 1042 that will, in addition to making technical changes, require the execution of a market evaluation to ensure DOE and Congress will have the most up-to-date information as we explore avenues to support industry.

This will inform the necessary blueprint for boosting the domestic nuclear fuels industry and will put us on a path to greater energy security. Thank you and I yield back.