

Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid
Security:
"Fueling America's Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and
Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure"
January 18, 2024
As prepared for delivery

Good morning.

Today we are discussing legislation that will modernize and expand our nation's pipeline infrastructure to improve safety and lower fuel prices for the American people.

As I think about the Arctic blast that swept across the country last week, and the cold front moving across the northeast this week...

...I am grateful that Americans have access to affordable, reliable, and abundant supplies of energy to heat our homes and fuel our vehicles.

We are able to access this life-saving energy across the country because of our pipeline infrastructure, which is the safest and most efficient way to transport liquid fuels...
... including gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, propane and natural gas.

Experts agree that global demand for liquid fuels will continue to grow through at least 2050.

As the world's number one producer of oil and natural gas, we have an opportunity to cement America's energy leadership for decades to come.

Today, the U.S. has more than 3.4 million miles of pipelines...

.. To meet growing energy demands we must modernize and expand our pipeline infrastructure.

The U.S. has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources right under our feet, which we've been able to harness as a result of free market principles and an entrepreneurial spirit that's uniquely American.

We should be embracing this and building on it to enhance America's energy security and competitive edge.

Maximizing our energy advantage requires that we expand and modernize our energy infrastructure.

The Energy and Commerce Committee plays a key role in strengthening our nation's pipeline safety laws and modernizing the permitting process.

Today, we are hoping to continue that legacy as we consider the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024 discussion draft, authored by Chair Duncan.

This important legislation would reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA for 5-years...

...streamlining the permitting process for new pipeline projects...

...protecting fuel choice by prohibiting state and local gas bans...

...making energy more affordable and reliable by expanding existing pipelines...

...and preparing for the energy mix of the future, one that will include more natural gas, hydrogen, carbon capture and sequestration, and so much more.

I look forward to working with Chair Duncan and all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to build on American energy leadership and move this important bill forward.

Our economy, our national security, the stability of global markets, and the environment will only benefit from continued American energy leadership.

Today's hearing will give PHMSA and pipeline operators an opportunity to provide their views as we work to perfect the bill.

Before I yield back, I want to take a moment to acknowledge my good friend, Subcommittee Chair Jeff Duncan, who earlier this week announced his retirement.

Mr. Duncan has served the people of South Carolina admirably.

He has led on solutions that are both top of mind for South Carolina's third district and critical to keeping the promises Republicans made to Americans across the country.

From unleashing nuclear energy, to ensuring pipeline safety—the topic of today's hearing.

Jeff, we thank you for your commitment to public service. Your leadership on this committee will be missed.

I yield back.