

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

**Subcommittee on Energy
Ranking Member Kathy Castor**

Hearing on “Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy”

February 5, 2025

Congratulations Chair Latta and the new members of the Energy Subcommittee. I look forward to working together on policy that delivers more affordable and reliable energy to hardworking Americans and businesses. We have an incredible opportunity to build on the successes of the past few years and the advances in lower-cost clean energy, grid resilience, innovation and efficiency.

We all can take great pride in the new factories, jobs and progress activated by the historic Infrastructure Law of 2021 and Clean Energy and Climate Resilience Law of 2022. Over the past four years, over 750 new or expanded clean energy projects have been announced, along with 400,000 new jobs and \$422 billion in private sector investments.

Across America and in most districts represented in this committee, new battery plants, clean vehicle factories, and solar and wind manufacturing centers are breathing new life into communities, local economies and small businesses. These are good-paying, many union, jobs that can support a family.

That’s why the early actions of the Trump Administration are cause for concern, including the firing of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy who is responsible for rooting out waste, fraud and abuse. Nothing in the early Trump executive orders is designed to lower energy prices and help hardworking Americans. Instead, across the board, the actions are a gift to Big Oil companies — designed to boost their profits at the expense of working families.

It’s outlandish that the president declared an “energy emergency” at a time when the U.S. is producing more oil and gas than any country in history. For years, the United States has been and remains the world’s top oil and natural gas producer. We are the second-largest producer of wind energy and a top-five producer of solar energy. We lead the world in nuclear energy and biofuel production. America is a dominant energy superpower.

Future projections show that we are going to need to generate more electricity, but the President’s prescription for the so-called “emergency” is to ban lower-cost renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

That doesn’t make sense and it doesn’t lower costs, until you understand that it’s all just a gift to polluters and Big Oil.

We are in the grips a real emergency however – the heating climate, which is leading to stronger hurricanes, extreme heat, and more destructive floods and wildfires. If we don’t reduce climate pollution, the costs of these catastrophes will continue to grow while our neighbors back home struggle to afford

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property insurance, rebuild their homes and pay exorbitant utility bills. Climate stresses are not just about the weather, they are about our wallets.

Another red flag in the President's early executive orders that will hit consumers with higher energy bills is his call to expand liquified natural gas exports, despite studies that show increasing LNG exports will raise energy prices for American families. Exporting gas outside America raises costs for small businesses and industries that rely heavily on it.

Plus, China is the single biggest LNG importer in the entire world. The least we could do would be to ensure that our LNG exports are not subsidizing China's industrial buildout at the cost of higher domestic gas prices for Americans.

We're also in a great competition with China on electric vehicles. China wants to put our automakers out of business. The President and Republicans shouldn't help them. Competitors like China are eager for President Trump to kill America's clean energy economy so they can dominate the global market instead.

While I trust we will have plenty to debate, I also see a lot of room for bipartisan common ground. Chair Latta is interested in strengthening the aging electric grid, as am I, and many members are interested in next generation nuclear power, critical minerals and battery recycling. Together we can ensure that Americans are energy-secure and encourage innovation that is the hallmark of America.

I yield back.