

**Chairman Robert E. Latta**  
**Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy: “Powering  
America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy”**

**February 5, 2025**

*As prepared for delivery*

Welcome to today’s hearing “Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy.”

Today, we are discussing the state of our nation’s energy system, reviewing Biden administration actions that have undermined our economic and national security, and, importantly, looking forward to how our subcommittee will meet our ever-expanding need for more energy.

In the last Congress, I asked our witnesses: do we need more or less energy?

Every witness responded by saying “we need *more* energy, and we need it *now*”.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that the United States will consume record amounts of electricity in 2024 and 2025. The Department of Energy’s Berkeley Lab estimates that U.S. data center load growth, which already encompasses half the data centers in the world, is projected to double or triple by 2028.

Last Congress, we heard extensive testimony from grid experts and operators about the impacts of burdensome regulations like the Clean Power Plan 2.0 that will drive out resources that are essential to keeping the lights on and our economy flowing.

Households and businesses alike continue to struggle under high energy prices that have followed excessive federal spending and anti-fossil fuel policy decisions of the Biden administration.

In 2008, House Republicans first showcased the “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that supports this diverse mix of energy sources without the government picking winners and losers – which is better for meeting demand and better for the environment.

Intermittent energy sources, such as solar and wind, have a role to play in a diverse energy mix. However, we must maintain our baseload power that is delivered from fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydropower.

While resources are strained, the next generation economy will require massive amounts of reliable, affordable, and abundant energy. My district in Ohio is home to over 86,000 manufacturing jobs and is seeing the data center energy demand arrive.

When it comes to winning the AI race, all energy solutions need to be on the table: small modular nuclear reactors, traditional nuclear power, intermittent renewables, batteries, natural gas, and fuel cells, just to name a few.

But our nation's energy future is at a turning point, and the world is not waiting for us.

Adversarial nations actively seek to exploit our energy demand to undermine our position on the world stage.

Unfortunately, misguided actions from the Biden administration, like the LNG export ban, handicapped diplomatic tools of energy abundance.

Instead, the Biden administration's "electrification or nothing" and "rush to green" approach has only emboldened adversaries like communist China who manipulate critical mineral markets and limit exports of key materials for our manufacturing sector and defense industrial base.

Meanwhile, China is doubling down on their efforts to gain a leadership position in the global race for AI development and the next generation economy.

Here's the good news: it's a new day in America and President Trump has led a necessary reset of our national energy strategy.

As we look to the future of our nation's energy needs, this subcommittee will be essential to ensure our electric grid is secure against physical and cyber-attacks and natural disasters. We will unlock our abundant resources through permitting reforms that can ensure innovations and advancements are happening here in America.

We will build on the bipartisan success of the ADVANCE Act and the Nuclear Fuel Security Act to usher in next generation nuclear, discuss innovative solutions for spent fuel like recycling and storage, and expand America's nuclear fuel infrastructure to restore our global nuclear leadership.

This committee must address the growing energy demand, and all of the issues that come with it. I look forward to the constructive dialogue today as we embark on a path to reassert North American energy dominance.

With that, I yield 30 seconds of my time to the gentleman from Colorado's 8<sup>th</sup> district.