

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power
Innovation”
April 30, 2025
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and let me thank the witnesses—on both panels—who join us today to examine legislation to assure abundant, reliable American energy.

Energy expansion is critical to our future.

We were reminded of this just three weeks ago, when we held a full committee hearing on artificial intelligence and what the stakes are for our nation if we do not accelerate our leadership in innovative technologies.

The potential for AI leadership is truly immense—from medical breakthroughs, manufacturing advances, climate resilience, enhanced education, and finance to safer communities, a stronger military, and greater security for America and our allies.

Yet, as Dr. Eric Schmidt testified: “This technological revolution and prosperity it promises depend entirely on a modern, resilient, and vastly expanded energy infrastructure.”

China understands this. And we should too.

To date this year, this subcommittee has held several hearings to examine both the importance and the urgency of energy expansion, and what is necessary to achieve it.

This includes continuing to expand, responsibly, our tremendous energy resources for use here and for our allies.

It means clearing out regulatory inefficiency so that project developers have a predictable landscape to make capital investments to build out energy infrastructure.

It means coordinating permitting processes and reducing delays.

It makes no sense that it takes longer to permit an energy project than it does to get a college degree, as one of our energy witnesses testified.

Our hearings have also focused on the essential role of reliable, affordable electric power – and the growing risks to reliability across the nation as demand increases.

The need for power to expand and advance AI and advanced manufacturing in America is coming with a blindingly fast urgency that represents a generational change in the need for more reliable electricity.

Yet our power sector has been losing huge amounts of reliable baseload and dispatchable generation in many regions due to retirements, without adequate replacement of those essential resources.

And the system is being put more out of balance because of state and federal policies that incentivize intermittent, renewable energy.

Grid reliability experts [project peak power](#) demand to grow by 151 gigawatts over the next ten years. To put that in context, about 1 gigawatt supplies power for approximately 500,000-750,000 households. At the same time, the grid will be losing as much as 115 gigawatts of the dispatchable generation needed to provide energy and stability of the grid.

And most of what is available to fill this huge gap is unreliable renewable energy sources...

This is why the grid operators testified that we must stop premature retirements and must work to restore balance to the grid system.

The 14 pieces of legislation we will discuss today take important steps to address various ways to begin to address reliability challenges and to unleash the nation's energy and economic potential.

Most of these proposals take aim at structural and regulatory issues necessary for a new era of energy expansion—issues like the critical need to make sure federal or state regulations do not significantly harm reliability...

...or to prioritize and expedite the interconnection of reliable generation to the grid.

The bills look at electric and energy related critical mineral supply chains.

The bills will address coordination of permitting for pipelines and the build out of new infrastructure for the North American energy systems. These are critical first steps to building out our nation's pipeline capacity.

And of course, we'll continue to press for policy changes that recognize the clear public interest to unleash American LNG exports, which proved so critical in recent years.

Nine years ago, this Committee led policy efforts to lift the ban on American oil exports and the nation has since become the dominant player in world energy markets—bringing new levels of security and energy stability to the world. We can do the same for LNG.

I want to thank all the members who contributed to these policies, and I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues on these bills, to find bipartisanship on these critical issues.

These are important steps in this Committee's work to our production and expansion with the urgency of our race with China, and the needs for our communities to thrive.