

**Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy**  
**“Building the American Dream: Examining Affordability, Choice, and Security in**  
**Appliance and Buildings Policies.”**  
**September 9, 2025**  
*As prepared for delivery*

Thank you, Chair Latta, and thank you to our witnesses for being here today.

Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, DOE must evaluate energy-efficiency standards for equipment categories every six years, but it may only impose new or amended standards if it finds that such standards are technologically feasible, economically justified, and will result in significant energy savings.

Unfortunately, DOE’s Appliance and Equipment Standards Program has strayed far from its original intent and now yields *de minimis* energy efficiency benefits while imposing significant costs on consumers and manufacturers.

Today, homeowners spend about 34 percent more on appliances than they did 15 years ago. From 1995 to 2005, the average homeowner replaced their appliances every 12 to 13 years. Now, that timeline has shrunk to every 8 to 9 years. Even more concerning, aspiring homeowners are also facing record high housing prices, in part due to the rising costs of compliance with onerous regulations under the guise of “energy efficiency.”

The Biden-Harris Administration’s DOE issued nearly 30 energy efficiency regulations, totaling over \$60 billion in costs to the economy. Biden’s DOE proposed and finalized new standards to regulate virtually every appliance American consumers use, forcing families to spend more for less reliable options. Sadly, these costs hit the hardest for working class families.

In fact, several regulations promulgated by the Biden Administration went as far as banning natural gas appliances, a blatant attack on consumers and the market, forcing American families to purchase electric appliances; and the irony is that doing so increased demand on our electric grid, exacerbating reliability issues that we’re already facing due to other misguided electricity grid policies.

At least 70 local governments in California, as well as dozens more in seven states and Washington, DC, have also enacted restrictions on gas appliances. New York has a state-wide gas ban, and many states have adopted building codes and performance standards that act as *de facto* gas bans.

As if this wasn't going far enough, the latest Administration also finalized new regulations to enforce a fossil fuel ban on all federal buildings, including military installations, residential housing, and sites with highly sensitive functions, like NIH and the Pentagon.

These building and appliance policies are dangerous, unsustainable, and expensive. American ratepayers are seeing the impact of these misguided policies reflected in their utility bills already today – as more strain is placed on the grid, and baseload sources, like natural gas, are restricted, prices will rise, and reliability will plummet.

I look forward to working with Chair Latta and Members of this Committee to develop policies that make homes and appliances less expensive for consumers, strengthen our electric grid, and allow more families to realize the American dream.

Thank you and I yield back.