

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
Subcommittee Markup of 8 Bills
November 19, 2025
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and the members of this subcommittee for the important work that went into today's markup.

Over the last several months, this subcommittee has held hearings to examine building and appliance policies that have driven up prices for consumers, distorting local decision-making processes and discouraging innovation, while also exacerbating strains on our electric grid.

Today, the energy subcommittee is considering 8 pieces of legislation that are imperative to restoring consumer choice, reversing policies that jeopardize our grid and national security, and lowering costs for American families and businesses.

It seems that regulation for its own sake was the philosophy of the last administration. In fact, the Biden-Harris Administration's DOE issued nearly 30 energy efficiency regulations for appliances and equipment, totaling over \$60 billion in costs to the economy.

We all support real energy efficiency gains, but as time goes on, the diminishing returns from overregulation are apparent. For example, 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.

It is clear the DOE's Appliance and Equipment Standards Program is no longer balanced, and it requires reforms that reflect how technology has changed since its inception.

We must ensure states and localities have the flexibility they need when implementing building codes, rather than distorting local and state decision-making while delivering little to no savings in utility bills, which is exactly what the IRA programs did and why we worked to repeal as many as possible.

The Biden Administration also tied the hands of federal agencies by finalizing new regulations to enforce a fossil fuel ban on all federal buildings, including military installations.

Moreover, some states and localities have taken steps to ban or severely restrict natural gas use. Gas bans simply move the use of gas down the power wire to be used in a less efficient manner, thus increasing electric grid demand and raising prices.

These policies are dangerous, expensive, and unsustainable. The pieces of legislation before us today will course correct by reforming the EPCA (*EPP-KA*) process, repealing bans on fossil fuel in federal buildings, removing unnecessary strain on our electric grid, repealing inappropriate IRA programs, and restoring consumer freedom and affordability.

Lastly, the subcommittee will also consider a bill from Representative Tonko on the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program. While we oppose the bill in its current form, we have been discussing ways to improve it with our Democratic colleagues. Its inclusion today is a reflection of our desire to continue to work in good faith to reach agreement.

Thank you and I yield back.