

**Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy**  
**“Protecting America’s Energy Infrastructure in Today’s Cyber and Physical Threat**  
**Landscape”**  
**January 13, 2026**  
*As prepared for delivery*

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and thank you to the witnesses for appearing before our committee to discuss legislative proposals to address the evolving threat landscape facing our critical infrastructure.

Energy underpins our entire economy, which makes it a key target for nefarious actors and adversarial nations.

We’ve witnessed cyber-attacks in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, AI driven attacks in Europe, and relentless attacks on Taiwan from Communist China.

At home, we experienced Chinese probes of critical infrastructure, cyber-attacks on the Colonial Pipeline, and physical attacks on the grid in North Carolina and Washington, among other events.

The proposals before us come at an especially critical moment because of the growing power of advanced technologies to enable even more sweeping and sophisticated attacks than we’ve seen.

The notion of largescale threats on American energy infrastructure is no longer “*if*” but “*when.*”

As we seek to reaffirm our nation’s energy and economic security, we must secure our energy systems to protect the nation from efforts to sow chaos and cause harm.

Legislation before us will ensure the energy and power providers and federal partners alike remain vigilant and prepared to respond to potential attacks while energy supplies grow to meet those demands.

Effective cybersecurity measures require constant information sharing, clear leadership protocols, and key collaboration from operators across the energy sector to fill gaps in threat detection, prevention, and mitigation.

Our bipartisan bills bolster the Department of Energy’s role as the Sector Specific Risk Management Agency and enhance state and energy sector visibility into the vulnerabilities of energy and power systems.

Importantly, legislation before us today will fill critical gaps in cybersecurity protections in areas of the country that do not have the resources of larger investor-owned utilities.

Altogether, the work of this committee will equip government and industry partners with necessary cybersecurity protections and establish more effective ability for the entire energy sector to prepare and defend against potential attacks.

I look forward to the discussion and yield back the balance of my time.