

BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY  
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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March 9, 2026

Ms. Adrienne Lotto  
Senior Vice President, Grid Security, Technical & Operations Services  
American Public Power Association  
2451 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Ms. Lotto:

Thank you for agreeing to testify at the Subcommittee on Energy hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled “Protecting America’s Energy Infrastructure in Today’s Cyber and Physical Threat Landscape.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Seth Ricketts Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to [Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov](mailto:Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "Latta".

Robert E. Latta  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

## **Additional Questions for the Record**

### **The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)**

1. DOE is the energy sector authority and must work with other agencies and States. To do this effectively, it must have a culture of constant learning and improvement, which will benefit the whole federal approach to support the energy sector.
  - a. Would you speak to the importance of a culture of constant learning and constant improvement for the stakeholders you represent?
2. All the bills included in this hearing reflect measures that would support constant learning and improvement, whether through improved leadership, assistance and sharing, or coordination. How would these be useful to strengthen your work to safeguard and respond to threats?

### **The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)**

1. You described RMUC as a 'once in a generation opportunity' for under-resourced utilities. Through APPA's Cyber Pathways Program, you're supporting public power utilities with assessments, training, and a new designation program. Can you share:
  - a. Concrete examples of how RMUC funding has improved cybersecurity posture at specific public power utilities?
  - b. What percentage of your members have been able to access RMUC resources?
  - c. How critical is the reauthorization and streamlining of technical assistance for ensuring no public power utility is left behind?
2. Iowa State University is leading CyDERMS, a regional cybersecurity center focused on securing Distributed Energy Resources. As we integrate millions of new devices we're dramatically expanding the attack surface of our grid. At the same time, we're deploying AI and machine learning tools to detect attacks and manage these distributed systems. This creates a paradox: we're using high-tech AI solutions to secure increasingly complex systems, but that technology itself could be a vulnerability.
  - a. How do you think about this balance?
  - b. Are there certain applications where simpler, lower-tech approaches might actually be more secure?
  - c. How do we ensure that the AI tools we're deploying to defend the grid don't become the vector for attack?

**The Honorable Laural Lee (R-FL)**

1. As you know, the DOE is the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the energy sector, leading efforts to protect critical energy infrastructure.
  - a. The Energy Emergency Leadership Act reinforces DOE's energy security mission, both against cyber and physical threats. Given this important role, why is it important to assign energy emergency and security responsibilities to an Assistant Secretary at DOE?
2. In your written testimony, you discussed the Cyber Risk Intelligence Sharing Program, or "CRISP," which involves the DOE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the E-ISAC.
  - a. Can you elaborate for us on how CRISP works in facilitating information sharing?
  - b. How has CRISP helped with identifying and mitigating cybersecurity threats?
  - c. Why are programs like CRISP important to the municipal utilities that you represent?
3. You also mentioned that the utility industry regularly conducts exercises to prepare for emergency situations, including the Safe Haven exercise, which was supported by DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response.
  - a. Can you tell us more about what this exercise involved?
  - b. Why is it important to regularly engage in these types of emergency exercises?