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6 MARKUP ON:

7 H.R. 7258, ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT;

8 H.R. 7266, RURAL AND MUNICIPAL UTILITY CYBERSECURITY ACT;

9 H.R. 7257, SECURING COMMUNITY UPGRADES FOR A RESILIENT GRID

10 (SECURE GRID) ACT;

11 H.R. 7272, PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS ACT; AND

12 H.R. 7305, ENERGY THREAT ANALYSIS CENTER ACT OF 2026

13 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

14 House of Representatives,

15 Subcommittee on Energy,

16 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

17 Washington, D.C.

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21 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:01 p.m. in

22 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Robert E.

23 Latta [chairman of the subcommittee], presiding.

24 Present: Representatives Latta, Weber, Palmer, Allen,

25 Balderson, Pfluger, Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, James, Bentz,

26 Fry, Lee, Rulli, Evans, Goldman, Fedorchak, Guthrie (ex

27 officio); Castor, Peters, Menendez, Mullin, McClellan,

28 DeGette, Matsui, Tonko, Veasey, Schrier, Fletcher, Ocasio-
29 Cortez, Auchincloss, and Pallone (ex officio)

30 Staff Present: Christian Calvert, Press Assistant;
31 Clara Cargile, Professional Staff Member; Jessica Donlon,
32 General Counsel; Andrew Furman, Professional Staff Member;
33 Sydney Greene, Director of Finance and Logistics; Annabelle
34 Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff
35 Director; Noah Jackson, Special Advisor; Sophie Khanahmadi,
36 Deputy Staff Director; Brayden Lacefield, Special Assistant;
37 Mary Martin, Chief Counsel; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Seth
38 Ricketts, Clerk; Jackson Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member
39 Services/Stakeholder Director; Peter Spencer, Senior
40 Professional Staff Member; Giancarlo Ceja, Minority Staff
41 Assistant; Ava Digre, Minority Intern; Waverly Gordon,
42 Minority Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel; Tiffany
43 Guarascio, Minority Staff Director; Perry Hamilton, Minority
44 Deputy Director, Member Services and Outreach; Kristopher
45 Pittard, Minority Professional Staff Member; Emma Roehrig,
46 Minority Staff Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority Policy
47 Analyst; Andrew Souvall, Minority Director of Communications,
48 Outreach, and Member Services; and Tuley Wright, Minority
49 Staff Director, ENG.

50

51 *Mr. Latta. The subcommittee will come to order. The
52 chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

53 Today the Energy Subcommittee will mark up five bills
54 that will update and enhance programs to help ensure the
55 physical and cybersecurity of our nation's electric grid.
56 These bills, two of which we have moved through the committee
57 in past Congresses with strong bipartisan support, also
58 strengthen the Department of Energy's ability to carry out
59 its energy emergency functions.

60 At a legislative hearing three weeks ago, witnesses
61 emphasized the importance of robust collaboration between
62 industry, states, and the Federal Government to ensure secure
63 energy systems. These bills will strengthen this work by
64 enhancing DoE's existing energy sector authorities and by
65 providing new tools to ensure fuller industry involvement.

66 We consider these bills today against the backdrop of
67 growing threats to our energy systems, including advanced
68 threats from our adversaries. As noted in recent hearings,
69 Communist China remains the most active and persistent threat
70 to American critical infrastructure networks. Its proxies
71 have pre-positioned attack capabilities in American
72 infrastructure be used during a major crisis or conflict
73 (sic). Addressing these and related threats is difficult and
74 can be resource-intensive.

75 The interconnected nature of our energy systems requires

76 constant intelligence sharing, clear visibility into threat
77 landscapes, and sufficient resources to fill gaps in security
78 protections, particularly for rural and small utility service
79 territories. The bills we will consider today take important
80 steps to accomplish this and more.

81 H.R. 7305, the Energy Threat Analysis Center Act of 2026
82 led by the gentlelady from Florida's 14th congressional
83 district and the gentleman from Colorado's 8th congressional
84 district, authorizes a program that improves information
85 sharing and coordination on threats analysis that impact the
86 power sector. A key ingredient of this program involves two-
87 way sharing of information between grid operators and the
88 intelligence community to their mutual benefit, improving the
89 ability to assess risks and threats and then how to act upon
90 that information.

91 H.R. 7258, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, led by
92 the gentlelady from Florida's 15th congressional district and
93 the gentleman from Ohio's 1st congressional district,
94 represents long-time bipartisan policy of this committee to
95 strengthen the ability of DoE to carry out its energy sector
96 security and emergency functions. The bill requires the
97 energy emergency and security functions at DoE are led by an
98 assistant secretary confirmed by the Senate. This will
99 ensure the department has the focus and accountable
100 leadership that will strengthen intergovernmental and energy

101 sector collaboration.

102 H.R. 7266, the Rural and Municipal Utilities
103 Cybersecurity Act, led by the gentlelady from Iowa's 1st
104 congressional district and the gentlelady from Virginia's 4th
105 congressional district, provides targeted funding and
106 technical assistance so small utilities, electric
107 cooperatives, and public power agencies have the resources to
108 secure their critical electric systems, including systems
109 serving military installations. Of course, we heard during
110 our legislative hearing states are critical to energy
111 security. They have unique visibility into the
112 interconnected relationships, risks, and vulnerabilities
113 related to the energy systems within their own borders.

114 H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, which I sponsored with
115 my colleague and friend from California's 7th congressional
116 district, builds upon the existing State Energy Security Plan
117 framework to expand the visibility of potential threats to
118 local electric distribution and supply chain networks.

119 Finally, as the sector risk management agency for the
120 energy sector, DoE must have visibility over the whole energy
121 sector, which, as we heard in the legislative hearing, is
122 compromised -- or pardon me, is comprised -- of increasingly
123 interconnected systems. Because of this, DoE actively works
124 not only with the power sector, but also the oil and gas
125 sector to prepare and respond appropriately to emergencies.

126 DoE's technical capabilities and central role in Federal --
127 in the Federal energy coordination make it well positioned to
128 improve the complex layers of communication necessary for
129 energy sector security.

130 H.R. 7272, the Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act,
131 led by the subcommittee's vice chairman from Texas's 14th
132 district and the gentlelady from Michigan's 6th congressional
133 district, does just this. It builds on DoE's leadership to
134 establish a non-regulatory program to improve the
135 coordination and other assistance across the energy sector,
136 states, and the Federal Government with regard to the
137 security and resilience of pipelines and other facilities
138 that deliver the nation's oil and gas and are necessary for
139 reliable energy power.

140 All told, these bills advance the important and
141 bipartisan work of this subcommittee to protect critical
142 infrastructure.

143 And with that I yield back and now recognize the
144 gentlelady from Florida's 14th district, the ranking member
145 of the subcommittee, for five minutes for an opening
146 statement.

147 *Ms. Castor. Well, today's bills take important
148 bipartisan steps to protect the electric grid and keep
149 Americans safe. Several of the bills reauthorize vital
150 initiatives that Congress created in the Bipartisan

151 Infrastructure Law that protect Americans from cyber and
152 physical infrastructure threats. And while it is a start, it
153 is not enough.

154 The majority is not working with us, with the Democrats,
155 to meet the moment to help lower electric bills, modernize
156 the grid, and get more power onto the grid. Our neighbors
157 back home are feeling the pain of rising electricity and
158 utility bills. They are up, on average across the country,
159 13 percent, much higher in other places. In some places --
160 49 states and the District of Columbia announced rate hikes
161 in 2025, including Florida, where our Republican Public
162 Utilities Commission rubber-stamped almost \$6 billion in rate
163 hike increases last year.

164 As the energy affordability crisis escalated last year,
165 what was the Republicans' answer? It was the big, ugly bill
166 that gutted cost-saving initiatives that would have helped us
167 get more energy to the grid and save families money. So
168 instead of addressing higher costs, Republicans inflicted the
169 higher costs on to hard-working Americans, while billionaires
170 pocketed tax breaks that they do not need and we are left
171 with a less secure electric system.

172 Plus, the President has been on a tear, canceling clean
173 energy projects that would have powered an estimated 13.5
174 million homes. And this committee should not stand idly by
175 while the Administration takes illegal actions to keep new

176 energy resources off the grid and withhold funds for
177 upgrading America's electric grid.

178 We saw just last week amid Winter Storm Fern how
179 resilient a well-planned electric grid keeps people alive and
180 reduces prices. The FERC commissioners advised this
181 subcommittee just yesterday how the aging grid is a major
182 problem. And looking at market data, we can clearly see that
183 transmission bottlenecks contribute to higher prices. When
184 transmission capacity is limited, that means that customers
185 in constrained areas must rely on higher cost generation
186 resources, even though cheaper power exists nearby. We know
187 that for every \$1 invested in well-planned, long-distance,
188 high-capacity transmission, we get \$5 back in reliability and
189 economic benefits.

190 We have modern solutions. What doesn't help is forcing
191 old polluting plants to stay online, especially when those
192 operators and utilities don't want them. Just look at
193 Colorado, where the owners of a Colorado coal plant are suing
194 the Department of Energy for forcing the plant to stay online
195 just one day before it was set to retire.

196 Our grid is facing significant risks, as NERC has
197 highlighted, but we can't just wave around the word
198 "emergency" to justify bad policy. We will not solve our
199 21st century energy challenges with 21st century solutions
200 (sic).

201 Again, the FERC commissioners yesterday also advised
202 about -- regarding the strength of what a diverse energy mix
203 means, and deploying next-generation tools like grid-
204 enhancing technologies and distributed power plants.
205 This committee should work to strengthen our transmission
206 infrastructure and put a lot of those new, modern tools to
207 work for the folks we represent back home: solar plus
208 battery systems, expand onshore and offshore wind power,
209 increase energy efficiency, and incorporate grid-enhancing
210 technologies and demand flexibility.

211 We talk an awful lot about winning the AI race and
212 safeguarding our national security threats from malicious
213 foreign actors. But the hard truth is that we are losing the
214 21st century energy race. China now has about 44 percent of
215 the world's operating utility-scale solar and wind. That is
216 more than the entire European Union, United States, and India
217 combined. They manufacture more than 90 percent of solar
218 modules and 80 percent of wind turbines, and they are
219 exporting most of that renewable capacity as -- they are
220 exporting as much as they are installing domestically.

221 The United States should not be left behind. That is
222 just not acceptable. Today's bills, Mr. Chairman, are not
223 enough. So I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us
224 in a bipartisan manner on additional substantive policy that
225 strengthens our grid, helps meet rising electricity demand,

226 and lower price -- lowers prices for hard-working families.

227 I yield back my time.

228 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back, and
229 the chair now recognizes the chairman from -- of the full
230 committee, the gentleman from Kentucky, for five minutes for
231 an opening statement.

232 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the
233 opportunity to be here.

234 And thank you, Ranking Member Castor, for holding this
235 markup to advance five bipartisan bills to the full
236 committee.

237 Throughout the 119th Congress this committee has held
238 several hearings examining the state of our nation's energy
239 system and persistent threats facing critical infrastructure,
240 both from adversarial nations and from nefarious actors.

241 We know the rising energy demands and a growing reliance
242 on intricate networks of energy delivery systems could widen
243 attack surfaces and opportunities to cause harm and sow chaos
244 in the daily lives of hard-working Americans. The bipartisan
245 legislation before us today builds upon the important work
246 being done across the country under the leadership of the
247 Department of Energy, and will ensure a more secure and
248 resilient system as we enter an era of skyrocketing energy
249 demands.

250 As a sector risk management agency for energy -- for the

251 energy industry, the Department of Energy is uniquely
252 positioned to play a leadership role in securing critical
253 infrastructure that everyday Americans rely on. Bills being
254 considered today will advance DoE's existing authority to
255 protect infrastructure that is essential to the efficient and
256 reliable delivery of energy. Importantly, legislation before
257 us today will also fill critical gaps in cybersecurity
258 protections for rural and remote areas of the country, and
259 they will improve coordination between public and private
260 entities.

261 All together, these bills will equip government and
262 industry partners with necessary cybersecurity protections
263 and advance more effective leadership from the Federal
264 entities to prepare and defend against potential attacks.

265 I urge my colleagues to support the bills before us
266 today, and I yield back.

267 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back the
268 balance of his time. The chair now recognizes the ranking
269 member of the full committee, the gentleman from New Jersey,
270 for five minutes for an opening statement.

271 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman Latta, for holding
272 the markup on five bipartisan cybersecurity bills.

273 Our energy system is under threat from uncontrolled
274 increases in electricity demand from extreme weather like we
275 saw in the past two weeks and from cyber threats. And those

276 cyber threats can come from nation-state actors like Russia
277 and China, or sophisticated terrorist organizations, or
278 hacking groups without the support of a nation-state. And
279 regardless of the source, these are genuine threats to the
280 reliability of the power grid that every single American
281 relies on every day.

282 Now, the bills before the subcommittee represent an
283 attempt to reduce our vulnerability to cybersecurity risks.
284 They do not eliminate the risk, but they represent an
285 important step forward.

286 Three of the bills amend or reauthorize provisions that
287 were established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which
288 passed nearly five years ago. And I am pleased to see that
289 Republicans are finally seeing the value of some of the
290 programs in that law. But we are only reauthorizing a tiny
291 subset of the programs created and enhanced by that law.
292 Cybersecurity is critical to energy reliability, and there
293 are a lot of other programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure
294 Law focusing on reliability that also need reauthorization,
295 and we should be working together to reauthorize those, as
296 well.

297 Now, we are also marking up legislation that ensures the
298 Department of Energy has the authorities it needs to enhance
299 energy security. But the department's leadership needs to
300 start showing that they care about energy security. Instead

301 of focusing on that, Secretary Wright has illegally canceled
302 over \$2 billion in investments in our nation's power, even as
303 winter storms over the last two weeks have once again
304 stressed the need to modernize our nation's grid for the
305 future, and I think that is a shame, obviously.

306 One of the programs we are reauthorizing today had \$80
307 million in funds for rural electric cooperatives and
308 municipal utilities that was held up for countless months due
309 to senseless delays at Trump's Department of Energy. And if
310 we want the programs we are reauthorizing today to succeed,
311 we have to ensure that that never happens again.

312 So with that I yield back, Mr. Chairman, the balance of
313 my time.

314 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much. The gentleman
315 yields back the balance of his time.

316 And the chair reminds members that, pursuant to the
317 committee rules, all members' opening statements will be made
318 part of the record.

319 Before I ask if there are any further opening
320 statements, I am just going to let everybody know we are
321 going to -- I am going to try to keep the subcommittee markup
322 moving so we will finish before 3:30, before the first votes
323 are called.

324 Are there further opening statements?

325 Seeing none, the chair calls up H.R. 7305 and asks the

326 clerk to report.

327 *The Clerk. H.R. 7305, a bill to amend the
328 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act --

329 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
330 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
331 amendment at any point.

332 So ordered.

333 [The bill follows:]

334

335 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

336

337 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
338 bill?

339 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Florida, the
340 ranking member of the subcommittee, seek recognition?

341 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
342 word on H.R. 7305.

343 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
344 minutes to strike the last word.

345 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

346 The first bill is the Energy Threat Analysis Center Act
347 with -- that is led by Congressman Evans. This is a
348 straightforward, common-sense bill that formally authorizes a
349 bipartisan cybersecurity initiative originally created in the
350 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. ETAC is designed to enhance
351 and test the Department of Energy's emergency response
352 capabilities. It supports the department's ability to
353 coordinate with other agencies, industry, the national labs,
354 and the intelligence community in the face of cybersecurity
355 threats.

356 These threats are real, and they are dangerous. Just
357 last year it was revealed that Chinese hackers had
358 infiltrated the systems of a Massachusetts utility where the
359 cyber attack went undetected for nearly a year. That is just
360 one example.

361 This bill strengthens the department's ability under

362 ETAC to use public-private collaborations to analyze threats
363 to the energy sector via information exchanges. It helps
364 secure our critical infrastructure and keep our neighbors
365 safe from energy system threats.

366 So members, I encourage you to support this bipartisan
367 bill. I am proud to lead it with Congressman Evans.

368 I yield back my time.

369 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
370 For what purpose does the gentleman from Colorado seek
371 recognition?

372 *Mr. Evans. I move to strike the last word.

373 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized to strike the
374 last word, and is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
375 bill.

376 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and, of course, to
377 the ranking member not only for the markup, but a special
378 thanks to the ranking member for working with me on this
379 bipartisan energy threat analysis, or ETAC, reauthorization
380 act.

381 I am proud to represent my home state of Colorado in co-
382 leading this bill, given its importance for both Colorado's
383 economy and our national security.

384 Many of you know before I came to Congress I served both
385 as a police officer for 10 years in the Denver metro area and
386 in the U.S. Army and the Colorado Army National Guard for 12

387 years, responding to multiple different threats, both
388 internal and external, to the country. And in both of those
389 capacities, we had something called a fusion center that
390 worked to collaborate and integrate information from multiple
391 different sources to be able to protect from the very potent
392 threat environment that we are facing. That coordination and
393 that communication literally saved lives, and I saw that up
394 close as a both police officer and a soldier.

395 ETAC, the Energy Threat Analysis Center, serves a very
396 similar purpose to protect our nation's energy generation and
397 transmission infrastructure from potential threats, and I am
398 proud that Colorado's very own National Lab of the Rockies is
399 the primary national lab that hosts ETAC. National Lab of
400 the Rockies leads this public-private partnership, along with
401 the Department of Energy and electric utilities like Xcel
402 Energy in Colorado, to conduct preventative research and
403 real-world cybersecurity threat assessments to secure our
404 critical infrastructure. The National Lab of the Rockies is
405 perfectly situated as the only ETAC collocated with other
406 critical DoE field offices, Federal partners, and research
407 institutions to help that information flow.

408 We know that the broader workforce and economy in
409 Colorado is perfectly well situated to protect communities,
410 and they represent strong talent from across the Front Range,
411 where innovative tech development and all-of-the-above energy

412 production is abundant. In an era where major cybersecurity
413 adversaries to the United States are increasing attacks on
414 critical infrastructure, it is essential that we reauthorize
415 ETAC.

416 CCP-backed -- Chinese Communist Party-backed hacker
417 groups like Volt Typhoon and Salt Typhoon have already
418 embedded themselves in networks within critical
419 infrastructure, and they are operating at times undetected.
420 Small towns and rural areas quite often don't have the
421 resources and the infrastructure to prevent attacks like
422 this, and are less -- left with massive disruptions and costs
423 when an attack occurs. These hackers are lying in wait,
424 ready to disrupt key energy systems that are crucial to daily
425 life, to domestic production, and military readiness. The
426 preventative work that ETAC does protects communities and our
427 national security from attacks like these, often times before
428 threats even emerge.

429 Through ETAC's pilot program it has become clear to DoE
430 that comprehensive, preventative cybersecurity is needed more
431 than ever, and it has to be done in tandem with our industry
432 partners who oversee the operations of our energy sector day
433 to day, second by second throughout the nation. I ask my
434 colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me today in
435 supporting this common-sense bipartisan legislation to
436 reauthorize ETAC and continue the difficult but necessary

437 work that we have in front of us to secure our nation's
438 critical energy infrastructure.

439 Thank you, and I yield back.

440 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
441 back the balance of his time. Is there any further
442 discussion on the bill?

443 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
444 7305.

445 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

446 Those opposed, nay.

447 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
448 to the committee.

449 The chairman calls up H.R. 7258, and asks the clerk to
450 report.

451 *The Clerk. H.R. 7258, a bill to amend the Department
452 of Energy Organization Act with respect --

453 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
454 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open to
455 amendment at any point.

456 So ordered.

457 [The bill follows:]

458

459 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

460

461 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
462 bill?

463 For what purpose does gentlelady from Florida seek
464 recognition?

465 *Ms. Lee. I would like to be heard on the bill, Mr.
466 Chairman.

467 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized to speak for
468 five minutes to strike the last word on the bill.

469 *Ms. Lee. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to lead H.R. 7258,
470 the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, alongside my friend, Mr.
471 Landsman from Ohio.

472 I also want to thank Mr. Walberg of Michigan and Mr.
473 Balderson of Ohio for their cosponsorship, as well as
474 Chairman Latta and Chairman Guthrie for including it in
475 today's markup.

476 Today the United States is seeing an all-time high in
477 energy demand, fueled by advances in AI and data centers,
478 growth in manufacturing, and rapid electrification. At the
479 same time, our electric grid faces an increasingly complex
480 threat landscape. State-sponsored cyber threats like Volt
481 Typhoon have actively targeted U.S. critical infrastructure,
482 including our electric grid. In recent years we have also
483 seen a significant rise in physical attacks on our electric
484 grid such as deliberate acts of vandalism and sabotage.
485 Meanwhile, natural disasters can cause widespread disruption

486 and outages, an unfortunate reality all too familiar in my
487 home state of Florida.

488 As such, strengthening the security and resilience of
489 America's electric grid must remain a top priority of this
490 committee and for the Department of Energy. This is why I
491 introduced the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, which would
492 elevate DoE's energy emergency and cybersecurity
493 responsibilities by requiring these critical functions to be
494 led by a Senate-confirmed assistant secretary.

495 The bill also clarifies DoE's cyber and energy emergency
496 functions in the department's enabling statute. By doing so,
497 the Energy Emergency Leadership Act will ensure the
498 department has the focused and accountable leadership to
499 better protect the public from fuel and electricity supply
500 disruptions and all hazards, whether natural or man-made,
501 including emergency threats -- emerging threats from our
502 foreign adversaries to the nation's electric grid.

503 As our energy landscape evolves, so must our response.
504 At the legislative hearing back in mid-January we heard from
505 witnesses about DoE's central role in protecting the energy
506 sector and how the Energy Emergency Leadership Act will help
507 us to support that mission. Dr. Nathaniel Melby, the vice
508 president and chief information officer at the Dairyland
509 Power Cooperative, noted in his written testimony that the
510 Energy Emergency Leadership Act rightly elevates the energy

511 security and cybersecurity concerns to the assistant
512 secretary level, ensuring that these critical issues receive
513 the high-end attention that they deserve within the
514 department and across Federal partnerships.

515 Similarly, Ms. Adrienne Lotto, the senior vice president
516 of grid security, technical, and operations services at the
517 American Public Power Association, wrote that, given the
518 ever-changing cyber and physical threats to energy
519 infrastructure, APPA believes it is reasonable for these
520 essential functions to report to an assistant secretary. I
521 appreciate APPA's endorsement of this bill.

522 The witnesses also underscored DoE's active role with
523 other agencies, and how critical collaboration and
524 partnerships are necessary to protect our critical energy
525 infrastructure. The bill will ensure the department carries
526 out its responsibilities more effectively when coordinating
527 with other agencies by improving coordination across the
528 department, ensuring more effective interagency
529 collaborations, and increasing accountability to Congress.

530 I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7258 to ensure
531 high-level leadership over energy emergencies at DoE and to
532 better protect our grid against present and emerging threats.

533 Thank you, and I yield back.

534 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much.

535 The gentlelady yields back. Are there any other members

536 seeking recognition on the bill?

537 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
538 7258.

539 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

540 Those opposed, nay.

541 The ayes have it and the bill is adopted and forwarded
542 to the full committee.

543 The chair calls up H.R. 7266, and asks the clerk to
544 report.

545 *The Clerk. H.R. 7266, a bill to amend the
546 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the
547 Rural --

548 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
549 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
550 amendment at any point.

551 So ordered.

552 [The bill follows:]

553

554 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

555

556 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
557 bill?

558 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Iowa seek
559 recognition?

560 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I move to strike the last word.

561 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
562 minutes to strike the last word.

563 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

564 My bipartisan legislation with Representative McClellan,
565 the Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act, is a
566 bipartisan bill to reauthorize and strengthen a critical
567 program that helps rural and municipal electric utilities
568 defend against growing cybersecurity threats to our nation's
569 energy grid.

570 As cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure
571 become more sophisticated and frequent, this bill ensures
572 that rural electric cooperatives and small utilities have
573 access to advance cybersecurity tools, technical assistance,
574 and grant funding to protect, detect, respond to, and recover
575 from cyber threats.

576 In Iowa's 1st district, rural electric cooperatives
577 serve ratepayers across our 20 counties. These cooperatives
578 face the same sophisticated cyber threats as major
579 metropolitan systems, but often lack the resources to defend
580 against them. This bill ensures our local utilities have the

581 tools they need to protect the grid that powers our homes,
582 farms, and small businesses.

583 This is a straightforward piece of legislation that
584 reauthorizes the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced
585 Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program, and
586 authorizes 250 million over 5 years to support the deployment
587 of advanced cybersecurity technologies and participation in
588 information sharing programs.

589 Mr. Chairman, at a time when cyber attacks on our
590 critical infrastructure are escalating, small and rural
591 utilities need the resources to defend against nation-state
592 actors and sophisticated threats. This bill provides exactly
593 that support.

594 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and,
595 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

596 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
597 Are there other members wishing to seek recognition?

598 And for what purpose does the gentlelady from Virginia
599 seek recognition?

600 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, I would like to speak to the
601 bill.

602 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
603 minutes to strike the last word.

604 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. I want to speak in favor of
605 this important bill, the Rural and Municipal Utility

606 Cybersecurity Act, which represents the sort of bipartisan
607 work that is important for the security and stability of the
608 American grid and the safety of the American people.

609 This bill reauthorizes and strengthens the Rural and
610 Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical
611 Assistance Program, or RMUC, a vital program that supports
612 rural and small municipal utilities to protect themselves
613 against an ever-multiplying number of cybersecurity threats
614 that could prove severely disruptive to rural communities
615 like the ones I represent in Virginia's 4th congressional
616 district.

617 Far too often these communities are under-resourced and
618 lack the support necessary to defend against malign actors
619 targeting important infrastructure and services. This bill
620 will fill those gaps and ensure these communities can face
621 the challenges of our ever-increasing digital and
622 interconnected world. And by hardening some of the most
623 vulnerable targets in our power system, the bill will bolster
624 our cybersecurity defenses for the entire nation's grid. It
625 will also strengthen RMUC's program by allowing the
626 Department of Energy additional flexibility in the way it
627 structures technical assistance and financial awards,
628 allowing small utilities and cooperatives even greater
629 access.

630 However, I do want to mention one issue. The Trump

631 Administration held up roughly 80 million in funds under the
632 RMUC program until just after we had our hearing on this
633 issue in January. And while I am glad the funds are finally
634 being dispersed, the withholding was not lawful and was
635 merely one instance of the -- of President Trump and
636 Secretary Wright arbitration -- arbitrarily taking action
637 that harms American families and increases their power bills.
638 And that must stop not just for this program, but across the
639 board.

640 The RMUC program is a key tool in our efforts to
641 safeguard the grid's integrity, and I am pleased to partner
642 with my colleague from Iowa, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, to advance
643 this bill, and urge my colleagues to support it -- the
644 reauthorization of this important program.

645 Thank you, and I yield back.

646 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
647 there any further discussion on the bill?

648 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Iowa's 1st
649 district seek recognition?

650 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment
651 at the desk.

652 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

653 Oh, do you have the amendment number?

654 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No, sir. Oh, wait, I do.

655 You got it?

656 *The Clerk. SC_MD_HR7266_01, amendment to H.R. 7266
657 offered by member Miller-Meeks. Page 6 --

658 *Mr. Latta. Without objection -- or the clerk will
659 report. But also at this time, without objection, the
660 reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

661 [The amendment of Mrs. Miller-Meeks follows:]

662

663 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

664

665 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
666 minutes in support of her amendment.

667 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

668 This amendment is a simple technical change that shifts
669 the start of the 5-year reauthorization period from 2026 to
670 2027. I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

671 And I yield back.

672 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. Is there any further discussion
673 on the amendment?

674 Without any further discussion, all those in favor will
675 signify by saying aye.

676 All opposed, nay.

677 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

678 Are there any further amendments?

679 Hearing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
680 7266, as amended.

681 All those in favor -- as amended -- all those in favor,
682 say aye.

683 Those opposed, nay.

684 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
685 to the full committee.

686 The chair calls up H.R. 7257 and asks the clerk to
687 report.

688 *The Clerk. H.R. 7257, a bill to amend the Energy
689 Policy and Conservation Act to require states to --

690 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
691 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
692 amendment at any point.

693 So ordered.

694 [The bill follows:]

695

696 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

697

698 *Mr. Latta. The chair recognizes himself to speak in
699 support of the bill.

700 H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, which I have cosponsored
701 with my colleague from California's 7th congressional
702 district, what this bill does, since Congress formalized the
703 state energy security planning process through the Energy
704 Policy Conservation Act, EPCA, in 2021, state energy offices
705 and governors have worked methodically and efficiently to
706 identify vulnerabilities and improve threat response efforts.
707 H.R. 7257 improves the state energy security planning process
708 by taking a more holistic approach to the potential threats
709 and solutions for more resilient, critical infrastructure.

710 Throughout the 119th Congress, this subcommittee has
711 held several hearings with experts and administration
712 officials to examine the state of our nation's energy
713 systems. We know that adversarial nations and nefarious
714 actors are actively seeking out any vulnerability in our
715 interconnected energy infrastructure to sow chaos and cause
716 harm to everyday Americans. This comes at a time where our
717 resilience -- reliance on energy is only becoming more
718 apparent because AI advancements, reshoring of manufacturing
719 facilities, and general economy-wide electrification.
720 This requires proactive information sharing on threat
721 analysis, constant vigilance, and clear visibility into the
722 widening threat of that landscape.

723 Importantly, states play an important role in managing
724 the security of their perspective -- in respective
725 jurisdictions. Through State Energy Security Plans, state
726 energy offices and their governors are able to put processes
727 in place to detect, mitigate, respond to potential attacks
728 targeting critical infrastructure. This legislation will
729 enhance that approach by ensuring states consider the
730 security and resilience of local distribution systems, as
731 well as incorporating the expertise of grid component
732 manufacturers and suppliers.

733 The draft being considered today also incorporates
734 language to ensure that governors remain ultimately
735 responsible for the approval of their own state energy
736 security plans. Given the state's authority underlying --
737 understanding of how their own energy systems work, it is
738 imperative that they are empowered to develop their own plans
739 while working collaboratively with Federal partners. This
740 legislation is another important step to secure our economic
741 future and always keep the lights on for all Americans.

742 I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I
743 yield back the balance of my time.

744 And for what purpose does the gentlelady from
745 California's 7th district seek recognition?

746 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
747 word and speak in support of this bill.

748 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
749 minutes to strike the last word.

750 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank
751 you, Chairman Latta, for working with my office on this
752 important legislation. I look forward to advancing this bill
753 to the full committee.

754 Keeping the lights on is our number-one priority. Our
755 lives depend on reliable, affordable electricity. When you
756 get home from work, when you get up in the morning, you flip
757 that switch and you expect the lights to come on, no
758 questions asked. And when disaster strikes and the power
759 goes out, whether it is a winter storm, a wildfire, or an
760 atmospheric river, you expect power to be restored
761 immediately. Thanks to the incredible, hard-working line
762 crews in Sacramento and across the country, power outages are
763 typically rare and brief, but that doesn't happen by
764 accident. That takes planning and preparation.

765 The electric grid faces growing threats from cyber and
766 physical attacks to increasingly severe weather driven by
767 climate change. The SECURE Grid Act addresses those threats
768 by requiring states to develop and maintain energy security
769 plans, and providing Federal funding to implement these
770 plans. Energy security plans help states, working with the
771 Department of Energy and the National Labs, to identify,
772 assess, and address any risks to the electric grid and make

773 contingency plans for grid emergencies.

774 In California we take grid resiliency seriously because
775 we know how easily the electric grid can spark a wildfire
776 that can engulf thousands of acres. That is why I have long
777 supported Federal resiliency programs like the Department of
778 Energy's GRIP program which I coauthored and which we were
779 able to secure as part as (sic) a Bipartisan Infrastructure
780 Law.

781 Resiliency is and should always be bipartisan, so I want
782 to thank Chairman Latta for his work on this bill and I look
783 forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion to make
784 tweaks that make this legislation even better as we move
785 towards a full committee markup.

786 I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield
787 back the balance of my time.

788 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much. The gentlelady
789 yields back. Is there any further -- any other members
790 wishing to be recognized on the bill?

791 Seeing none, are there any amendments?

792 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
793 7257.

794 All those in favor, say aye.

795 All those opposed, nay.

796 The ayes have it and the bill is adopted and forwarded
797 to the full committee.

798 The chair calls up H.R. 7272, and asks the clerk to
799 report.

800 *The Clerk. H.R. 7272, a bill to require the Secretary
801 of Energy to carry out a program --

802 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
803 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
804 amendment at any point.

805 So ordered.

806 [The bill follows:]

807

808 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

809

810 *Mr. Latta. Are there any members seeking to be
811 recognized on the bill?

812 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman?

813 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the vice chairman of
814 the subcommittee from Texas seek recognition?

815 *Mr. Weber. I seek recognition to speak on H.R. 7272.

816 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
817 bill for five minutes.

818 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

819 The top line on this is that the legislation would
820 require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program that
821 improves coordination among Federal agencies, among states,
822 as well as the energy sector to ensure the security of
823 pipelines and LNG facilities.

824 My legislation, the Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness
825 Act, which I am proud to lead with my friend from Michigan,
826 Representative Dingell -- I don't see her here today -- has
827 longstanding support in this committee.

828 Addressing both cyber and physical threats and other
829 hazards to our fuel infrastructure requires information
830 sharing and coordination among infrastructure owners, states,
831 as well as the Federal Government. It also requires
832 visibility over the whole energy sector, from fuels to power,
833 upstream to downstream in our facilities that secure American
834 energy dominance across the world, Mr. Chairman.

835 The Department of Energy, DoE, serves by law as the
836 government's energy sector lead and, as such, has broad
837 visibility and the expertise to ensure security and hazards
838 coordination across the entire energy sector. H.R. 7272
839 would improve how the Department of Energy works with others
840 to ensure the security and resilience of pipelines, as well
841 as LNG facilities that our energy sector depend upon for the
842 reliable supply of fuels, as well as electricity. This
843 legislation focuses on DoE's vast technical capabilities to
844 develop a program that improves the coordination and the
845 technical support needed to ensure timely, efficient, and
846 effective work to secure our energy systems and response to
847 disruptions.

848 To be extremely clear, H.R. 7272 does not create nor
849 does it authorize a regulatory program. Let me repeat: This
850 bill does not create, nor does it authorize a regulatory
851 program. It is intended to strengthen DoE's ability to
852 improve, to inform, and build capabilities within states, as
853 well as access across the energy sector. Other agencies like
854 Transportation Security Administration, TSA, certainly play a
855 vital role when it comes to cybersecurity for pipelines, but
856 the Department of Energy retains responsibility over the
857 whole energy and power sector. It also already leads Federal
858 coordination on this front.

859 This bipartisan effort will maximize for the public

860 interest DoE's capabilities and, in turn, strengthen all
861 stakeholders in security for the delivery of fuels as well as
862 power.

863 With that I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7272 --

864 *The Chair. Will the gentleman yield a minute and 43
865 seconds? This is --

866 *Mr. Weber. Yes, yes.

867 *The Chair. The gentleman yields?

868 So thank you, Mr. Chair -- Mr. Vice Chair.

869 Our nation's economy and security are dependent on the
870 uninterrupted supply of fuels and electricity, and pipelines
871 play an essential role in the reliability of this system.
872 Both the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Fixing
873 America's Transportation Act provide DoE with a range of
874 emergency response and cybersecurity authorities, including
875 the designation of DoE as the sector risk management agency
876 for the energy sector. In this role, DoE is required to
877 coordinate with other agencies and work with the energy
878 sector to identify vulnerabilities and mitigate incidents.

879 H.R. 7272 would bolster coordination and information
880 sharing for incident responses, provide for the pilot
881 demonstration projects, and develop curricula for pipeline
882 and LNG facilities. H.R. 7272 will also improve the quality
883 of this coordination by allowing DoE to work more closely
884 with the energy sector and states to strengthen system

885 resiliency.

886 Importantly, this legislation has no impact -- no impact
887 -- on the authority of any other Federal agency relating to
888 the physical or cybersecurity of pipelines or LNG facilities.
889 It does not provide any new regulatory authority, and
890 instructs DoE to use its expertise as the sector risk
891 management agency to strengthen the resilience of our
892 nation's critical energy and infrastructure.

893 The bill enjoys a strong bipartisan history, and I thank
894 my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with
895 us, and I appreciate -- I urge support.

896 And I will yield back to my friend from Texas.

897 *Mr. Weber. The gentleman from Kentucky yields back,
898 and so do I, Mr. Chairman.

899 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much. The gentleman
900 yields back, and the chair now recognizes the gentleman from
901 New Jersey, the ranking member of the full committee, to
902 strike the last word for five minutes.

903 *Mr. Pallone. The last word. Thank you, Chairman
904 Latta.

905 I strongly support H.R. 7272, the Pipeline Cybersecurity
906 Preparedness Act, because cybersecurity threats to our energy
907 system are not limited to the power grid. They can impact
908 our nation's fuel delivery systems. And we saw an explicit
909 example of this nearly five years ago, when cyber criminals

910 hacked the Colonial Pipeline and left much of the East Coast
911 struggling for access to gasoline and diesel.

912 This bill would codify and enhance the Department of
913 Energy's role in pipeline security. It would also allow DoE
914 to develop pilot and demonstration projects to keep our
915 nation's energy systems safe, and to help develop the next
916 generation of energy workers that are on the front lines of
917 energy security.

918 DoE has the relationships with companies across the
919 energy industry necessary to drive the change we need to see,
920 and it must have a leadership role in any Federal Government
921 efforts to protect both the physical and cybersecurity of our
922 energy infrastructure.

923 But before I yield back, Mr. Chairman, I have to note
924 that the committee has more work to do in ensuring the
925 safety, not just the security, of our nation's pipeline
926 system. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
927 Administration's authorization for pipeline safety activities
928 ran out nearly two-and-a-half years ago. The Transportation
929 and Infrastructure Committee has passed a bipartisan
930 reauthorization bill. The Senate Commerce Committee has
931 passed a bipartisan reauthorization bill. But our committee
932 is behind the curve. We have not even had a legislative
933 hearing on a proposal.

934 So Mr. Chairman, this committee cannot stand idly by as

935 the Trump Administration attacks the safety of American
936 pipelines. We must craft a bipartisan reauthorization for
937 pipeline safety. I know that work is critical, I know it is
938 for another day.

939 For the moment I am glad the committee can pass this
940 important legislation on pipeline security. I urge my
941 colleagues --

942 *Mr. Weber. Will the gentleman yield?

943 *Mr. Pallone. Sure, of course.

944 *Mr. Weber. Thank you.

945 I yield back.

946 *Mr. Latta. He said thanks. The gentleman said thank
947 you.

948 *Mr. Pallone. Oh, just a thank you. All right. I
949 appreciate -- I love you, thank you. You are the best.

950 [Laughter.]

951 *Mr. Pallone. All right. Where is the tie today?

952 [Laughter.]

953 *Mr. Pallone. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I
954 yield back.

955 *Mr. Latta. I think the gentleman yields back now.
956 Okay. Is there any further discussion on the bill?

957 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
958 7272.

959 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

960 All opposed, nay.

961 The ayes have it --

962 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. How am I
963 recorded?

964 *Mr. Latta. You are -- you got an eye up there.

965 [Laughter.]

966 *Mr. Latta. Yes, the ayes have it. The bill is adopted
967 and forwarded to the full committee.

968 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical
969 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the
970 committee today.

971 So ordered.

972 And before I bring the gavel down I just want to thank
973 everybody for yesterday's hearing. We have had such great
974 feedback on our FERC hearing yesterday from so many people
975 that -- you know, we had every chair about filled in here for
976 a long period of time. But they -- I think we had 32 members
977 ask questions yesterday, so I just want to thank everybody
978 for their hard work yesterday in the subcommittee with FERC.

979 Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

980 [Whereupon, at 2:48 p.m., the subcommittee was
981 adjourned.]