

April 22, 2026

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Chairman Brett Guthrie**

Subcommittee on Energy Hearing:

**“Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Oversight of its Activities,
Priorities, and Fiscal Year 2027 Budget”**

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and thank you to our witnesses for joining us today.

As we discuss nuclear safety and regulatory policy today, our nation confronts an array of challenges that must be effectively addressed to secure our energy and economic future.

Iran has exposed the harm that flows from allowing malign nations the ability to choke off global energy supplies, but China looms above all by seeking to reorient and dominate geopolitical relationships. It seeks to overtake America’s economic and technological leadership, particularly in the race to dominate energy-intensive AI.

Meanwhile, we face unprecedented, accelerating demand for more power generation here at home—now [estimated](#) at over 220 gigawatts to

meet new peak demand over the next decade, while *losing* over 100 gigawatts of baseload power.

However, nuclear technology and infrastructure can help us meet this challenge.

If nuclear deployments increase rapidly as we hope, whether to fill the dispatchable generation gap, or to meet various data center and industrial needs, that will create a lot of site and safety licensing work.

So, can the NRC meet the pace and scale of potential new licensing, while assuring adequate safety?

A key focus of this Committee's work three years ago that became the ADVANCE Act was to make sure NRC's vital safety work would be performed *in service to the mission* that nuclear energy should be used for the common defense, and to provide maximum benefit to society.

This policy remains as important as ever, and in addition to Congress providing direction for NRC, the Trump Administration's nuclear related Executive Orders have also helped focus NRC on efficient regulation.

Recent NRC regulatory actions show positive signs that we're on the right track, and today we have an important opportunity to review NRC work.

Let me welcome Chairman Nieh [KNEE] and the Commissioners. I look forward to the discussion and yield back.

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