

Chairman Brett Guthrie  
Subcommittee on Energy Hearing:  
“AI and the Grid: Meeting Growing Power Demand While Protecting Ratepayers”  
April 29, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Latta, for holding this hearing and thank you to the witnesses for appearing before us to examine seven proposals to modernize our electric system to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Throughout this Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee has spent considerable time examining the opportunities that arise from U.S. leadership in Artificial Intelligence development.

We’ve evaluated the benefits that AI could bring across every sector of our economy.

We’ve analyzed the national security implications of losing the global AI race to adversarial nations like China.

And we’ve looked at the ways that AI data center growth interacts with the operation of our electric system.

The world is at the precipice of great change, and we must get this right.

It is no secret that energy demands coming from data centers are raising concerns about affordability in our communities.

But we are charting a path to ensure that data center growth works for all Americans, not just big tech companies.

When done right, research and evidence continue to show that load growth coming from data centers actually lowers costs for communities.

New data centers bring needed investments into grid modernization while connecting baseload energy that keeps the lights on for everybody 365 days a year.

Even more, these investments raise significant tax revenue that is used to pay for local community services like schools, public safety, and recreational parks.

That is why the legislation before us today focuses on ways to methodically plan, build, and pay for a grid that works for American households.

These bills enhance the states' important role in planning a more affordable and reliable grid.

We are also ensuring that data centers are paying their fair share.

While we may not agree with every provision in every bill, these legislative proposals will foster a discussion on how to implement a vision of our electric system that keeps costs low for households and ensures U.S. leadership in the next generation economy.

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