

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“Subcommittee Markup of Six Pieces of Legislation”
July 14, 2026

Good morning, and thank you, Chairman Latta, for holding this important markup to consider bills related to spurring further investments in nuclear energy.

I’d also like to thank Ranking Member Pallone for his and his staff’s collaboration on these bills to ensure the regulatory framework for nuclear safety and security is up to date and capable of meeting the demands of the expanding nuclear industry.

This industry—from the fuels, manufacturers, and reactors to the operators and workers—will be essential for long term American technological leadership globally and for reliable and abundant energy here at home.

I have noted in recent hearings that we must strive to return to a pace of nuclear expansion that surpasses what America achieved over 30 years ago.

In that period, we demonstrated our leadership on nuclear power production and nuclear and operational safety, setting the standard for the world.

While American industry still sets the standard, adversaries such as China are working hard to catch up, whether that's on nuclear technology or AI and other advanced technologies.

We can't let the licensing process itself be a major impediment to maintaining our edge.

The six bills today build upon bi-partisan reforms we started two years ago with the ADVANCE Act to improve nuclear permitting to bring about benefits faster while still maintaining safety.

The central goal then and today is to make sure the NRC licensing is efficient, predictable, and timely.

The bills before us today clarify pay authority, improve transparency, and eliminate unnecessary Atomic Energy Act requirements to ensure licensing runs more smoothly. And all the bills deserve strong bi-partisan support.

While we have some ongoing discussions about the details in a couple of the bills, I am encouraged by the continued cooperation across the aisle, and our shared goals to get this right. I appreciate the work that has gone into these bills already.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

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