

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton**  
**Chairman Emeritus, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**September 29, 2015**

Mr. Chairman –I am pleased that we will be marking up H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, H.R. 3242, the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act and reconciliation recommendations today.

The reconciliation recommendations include three important parts. Section one repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund, often referred to as the “Obamacare slush fund”, which will result in a savings of \$12.7 Billion over ten years. Section two prevents federal Medicaid dollars from going to private entities that perform abortions, such as Planned Parenthood for one year. Section three redirects these Medicaid dollars to Community Health Centers. We all support funding for quality and widely accessible women’s health centers and I believe this reconciliation recommendation will ensure women have access to care while protecting the unborn.

I am pro-life because I believe that all life is precious and should be respected and I back that up with my vote. As a lawmaker, I have a constitutional and moral obligation to protect those who do not have the power to protect themselves. I will continue to fight in Congress for the unborn.

In addition, I am glad that we are marking up HR 8 as well. As the Chairman of the Conference on the 2005 Energy bill, I appreciate all the hard work it has taken to get to this point. While I may not agree with every provision, I know that getting into conference is the only path to the President's desk. I hope that all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle feel that creating sound energy policy is in the best interest of our country and will support this process moving forward.