

Opening Statement of Chairman Greg Walden
Full Committee Markup on H.R. 453, H.R. 350, H.R. 1119, H.R. 1733, H.R.
1917, H.R.2872, and H.R. 2880
December 6, 2017

(As prepared for delivery)

This morning we meet to markup multiple commonsense bills that have been thoughtfully and thoroughly considered by the Energy and Environment subcommittees. Throughout this Congress, these subcommittees have been working diligently and in a bipartisan manner to develop legislation that prioritizes the consumer, supports American business, and protects the environment. These bills expand the nation's access to domestic energy resources, improve recycling and reuse of materials, and provide small businesses with the regulatory flexibility they need to meet environmental standards while still growing the economy and creating jobs. Clearly these are important bills and I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together constructively so we can move them out of committee and one step closer to becoming law.

Many of us on this committee, if not all of us, want to see America do a better job of harnessing its great hydropower potential so we can produce more clean and reliable domestic energy. Two of today's bills do exactly this. HR 2872 promotes hydropower development at existing nonpowered dams and HR 2880 opens the door wider for the construction of more pumped storage hydropower projects, which is of particular interest to my constituents in the Pacific Northwest where we have tremendous opportunities to build new pumped-hydro storage facilities.

Four of this morning's bills lift the heavy and unnecessary regulatory burden off the nation's brick makers, amateur racers, coal refuse-to-energy plant owners, and wood stove manufactures by providing more time and compliance options in meeting EPA air regulations. It is important to note that none of the four sectors affected by this legislation are a significant source of emissions and none of these bills repeal any regulation, they simply make minimal adjustments to reduce the risk of

plant shutdowns and layoffs. In other words, these bills preserve jobs and save consumers money while continuing the country on a path of reduced air emissions.

The seventh and final bill we are marking up today, H.R. 1733, directs the Secretary of Energy to update the federal strategy for recycling used lubricating oil. The result of this bill will be a maximized use of resources and a cleaner environment, an outcome everyone can support.

All the bills being considered this morning have followed regular order, being the subject of legislative hearings and subcommittee markups where bipartisan amendments have been offered and accepted. This process has yielded carefully crafted and well thought out legislation and I urge my colleagues to support these bills.