

**Opening Statement of the Republican Leader Cathy McMorris
Rodgers**
Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change
**“The CLEAN Future Act: Industrial Climate Policies to
Create Jobs and Support Working Communities”**

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As prepared for delivery

As we work to address climate risks, we must pursue policies that will not undermine our communities or our national security. That means protecting our energy affordability and reliability and building a stronger economy.

We should also work together to help the nation confront all future risks. We should preserve what is best for our nation, our communities, and families, and the freedom and dignity of workers.

This is the path to securing a cleaner American energy future. You achieve a clean future by relying upon free-enterprise and private initiative. This will unleash innovation and transform how we make and do things, with massive benefits for society.

It's how America has led the world in lifting people out of poverty and empowered people to build a better life. America will win the future by building on our assets and our strengths.

That includes all our abundant resources, which helps us preserve and strengthen our strategic relationships to confront national security challenges.

This is the practical path Republicans support in our legislative work to update permitting and reduce regulations, in order to deploy new, cleaner technologies more quickly and at lower cost.

This path rejects one-size-fits-all central-planning that – as experience tells us— is suitable only for special interests and federal regulators.

Earlier this month, Energy and Commerce Democrats released their draft CLEAN Future Act. This 1,000-page bill seeks to transform the nation’s economy, its energy systems, the way people live—on a time frame and at a scale that far surpasses anything practical.

For example, energy technology expert Mark Mills [testified](#) before this panel last month on the scale of this transformation, if it were possible, just for the power sector. He said this about meeting decarbonization goals by 2035.

Quote: it “would require a continuous construction program at least 600% bigger than any single peak year for utility construction that has occurred in the U.S., China or Germany over the past half-century.”

Given technological and market realities, this build-out would increase American reliance on China and do little to reduce global emissions or improve America’s competitive edge.

This is not the policy outcome we want. But, we will be on this path if we rush into place top-down regulatory controls over our power, transportation, and industrial sectors.

This legislation incorporates the Left’s relentless drive to eliminate fossil energy, regardless of the harmful strategic or economic

impacts. That includes all of the American jobs that rely on fossil fuels.

The problem is the pace, the rush. It makes no allowance for technological readiness. If CCUS is not ready for natural gas or industrial processes, tough.

If energy intensive industries struggle to compete, tough. If overbuilds of renewable energy stifle investment in innovative, more flexible technologies like nuclear, tough.

The chilling implications of this centralized control over our future are clear in the final title of the bill - the Worker and Community Transition title.

This title plainly acknowledges the bill's threats to workers and communities reliant on the high-quality energy intensive jobs that do so much for American prosperity.

The title establishes new programs to measure likely employment impacts and creates a federal transition czar, with unlimited authorizations, to provide welfare support and training for workers and communities.

Think about this title and what it signals for federal planning over our future; over people's own freedom to work and make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

Enacting job-destroying policies are not the path to a better future. Our future should be about building, not destroying.

Consider the reforms Republicans are promoting in our Securing Cleaner American Energy Agenda, building off our work in the Energy Act of 2020.

We can update Clean Air Act requirements in the New Source Review program so power plants and manufacturing facilities can make environmental improvements without costly regulatory requirements.

This will attract private capital and it will improve operations to become more productive and cleaner—a benefit to workers and communities that are home to these operations.

We can update licensing for more rapid deployment of nuclear technology—the kind of technology that can be sited close to industrial facilities, to provide heat and processing for new ways to make fuels.

These breakthroughs actually add to productivity, create wealth across communities—and would transform our world to a more secure energy future. Let's reject central planning. Let's free our innovators by reducing regulations.