

Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
As Prepared for Delivery
Subcommittee on Environment, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
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Good afternoon, and thank you to our witnesses and thank you, Chairman Palmer, for holding this hearing.

I just want to take a moment to recognize my friend, the Gentleman from Alabama, for his leadership on critical mineral issues and for sounding the alarm that our national security and economic prosperity are at risk if we do not have reliable, domestic sources for these important materials.

Winning the race to AI dominance will depend not only on having access to critical minerals that go into semiconductors and other advanced technologies, but also on access to the chemicals needed to manufacture, refine, and recover these critical minerals in the United States, rather than having to rely on China.

Many of our nation's environmental laws were enacted more than 50 years ago and have not kept pace with the current economic and geopolitical conditions.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is leading the way in working to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and other environmental laws so that we can meet the challenges posed by China and other countries while also continuing to protect our environment. Even though TSCA was updated 10 years ago, it has become clear that the law is not working as needed.

We need to maintain a strong manufacturing base in the United States—and that includes the ability to manufacture our own chemicals and produce other critical materials—all of which are essential for national defense and economic security.

I look forward to hearing from our panel of witnesses on their experiences navigating these laws and their ideas for how we can reduce regulatory burdens and continue to have a healthy environment.

Thank you, and I yield back.