

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
As Prepared for Delivery
Subcommittee on Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
“Subcommittee Markup of Three Pieces of Legislation.”
Thursday, May 14, 2026**

Thank you, Chairman Palmer, and the members of this subcommittee for the important work that went into today’s markup.

The first bill we will take up, H.R. __, the Brownfields Revitalization for a Better Tomorrow Act, is a compromise measure to reauthorize the EPA’s brownfields grants program, which has enjoyed bipartisan support since it was first enacted more than 20 years ago.

Authorization for the program lapsed in 2023, and the Committee has held multiple hearings on the importance of reauthorization.

This bill was negotiated between the majority and minority and includes several bipartisan policy reforms to improve the operation, effectiveness, and accountability of the EPA’s brownfields program.

While the reauthorization funding levels may not be as high as Ranking Member Pallone and the minority would like, they are based on the current appropriation levels enacted by Congress.

Through the regular appropriations process, Congress has not historically funded the EPA brownfields grants at the full authorized levels. The reauthorization bill we are considering today reflects that funding reality and makes important reforms that both sides support. We will continue to work with our friends in the Minority and colleagues in the Senate to try resolve the funding issue for the brownfields grants.

The second bill we will take up is H.R. 2145, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act, sponsored by Rep. Miller-Meeks.

This bipartisan proposal would establish a pilot program at EPA to help build out waste collection and recycling infrastructure in areas that currently lack recycling household recycling. As we heard at multiple hearings this Congress, improved recycling capacity can help address plastic and other waste streams and support recovery of critical materials needed for economic and national security.

As part of the markup, we plan to consider H.R. 4109, the bipartisan Recycling and Composting Accounting Act, as an amendment to this H.R. 2145.

These two measures were originally included together as part of the end of the year package in 2024, which fell through.

This Congress, the Senate combined these two measures into a single bill, S. 351, also known as the STEWARD Act, which passed by unanimous consent at the end of last year.

By taking these two House bills, and combining them here in this markup, we will have a single measure that matches the Senate's approach. Hopefully this combined bill will be easier to get enacted into law than if we continued to move two separate bills.

I appreciate the work on both sides to get these bills ready for today's markup.

Thank you and I yield back.