

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ansari, and Members of the Committee and Subcommittee,

My name is Adam Met. I am the Executive Director of Planet Reimagined, where we focus on solving energy and climate challenges with research-driven, bipartisan, pragmatic solutions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 5639, the Co-Location Energy Act.

This bill increases domestic energy production. It speeds up permitting in a real way. It creates new revenue on existing leases. It limits additional land disturbance. And it brings traditional and alternative energy into the same projects.

Co-location is simple. We already have millions of acres of federal land that have been leased, reviewed, and developed for oil and gas. Those sites already have roads, grid connections, and an operational footprint. Instead of starting over somewhere new, this bill allows additional energy resources, such as solar, to be developed on those same sites.

Across Texas, New Mexico, California, Utah, and Colorado, there are significant opportunities to colocate solar on existing oil and gas sites. If fully implemented across the west, these sites could generate an additional 406 GW of energy, representing hundreds of millions of dollars in increased revenue across both public and private sectors, and power the equivalent of 101.5 million homes across 2.3 million buildable acres.

The way the bill works is just as important as the idea. It directs the Department of the Interior to create a clear, transparent permitting framework so stakeholders can evaluate projects case by case. Existing operators, renewable developers, regulators, and communities all have a role in determining how and if co-location happens on active leases.

It also includes reviewing the possibility for categorical exclusions for certain co-location activities on previously disturbed land. This bill provides for the development of criteria that, if met, would allow projects to move

more quickly through the environmental review process without lowering standards. In practice, that means less delay on sites that have already been analyzed and developed.

At Planet Reimagined, we have been working on co-location for several years. We have worked with federal, state, and local governments, oil and gas companies, renewable developers, trade associations, environmental organizations, and community leaders. These groups do not usually agree. On this, they do. The most common response we hear is that it makes sense and should already be happening at scale.

Co-location is feasible across the western United States, from the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico up through North Dakota and across to Utah and Colorado where you have a strong overlap of federally leased energy land and high solar potential. These are not hypothetical sites. They are already in use for energy production and ready for additional development.

In Utah alone, there are 483,000 acres of federal land that could support co-location. If those sites are fully utilized, they could generate as much as 69 GW in additional solar energy. We have worked closely with Governor Cox and his team to identify sites and engage operators. One operator in Utah told us that mapping solar potential onto their existing leasehold displayed an opportunity that they had not previously been aware of.

We have heard similar feedback in Colorado, working with Governor Polis and others across the state. For example, in Grand Junction, conversations with community members showed strong support for co-location on existing leases. The logic is straightforward. If development is already happening, adding additional energy is a lower impact way to expand supply.

From the operator side, the benefits are clear. It creates new revenue streams from existing leases and it supports a balanced energy portfolio. This model also opens up additional siting opportunities for renewable

energy developers. Across the board, the consistent message we hear is the need for clarity—companies want a clear understanding of how permitting works and what the approval process entails before committing to partnerships. That is exactly what this bill provides. A clear, structured path that turns interest into actual projects.

Interest in the co-location model is emerging across the spectrum, from environmental NGOs, to energy developers, to other stakeholders. That level of alignment across sectors is not common, and it is happening here because the approach is practical.

I want to thank Congressman Kennedy for his leadership on this issue, along with Congressman Levin. It is also encouraging to see the same bipartisan, bicameral leadership from Senator Curtis and Senator Hickenlooper advancing the Co-Location Energy Act in the Senate.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.