

Madam Chair, can I have one minute.

I would note that there was a lot of discussion today about the discharge of heavy metals from the coal plant. While we have made tremendous advances in controlling heavy metal discharges from coal plants through the mandated use of scrubbers and other treatment regulations.

However, there is no EPA regulation of heavy metal discharges from catastrophic wildfire that plagues the United States. These metal discharges are second only to volcanic events discharges into the atmosphere. Yet my colleagues who bemoan the heavily regulated discharges from a coal plant do nearly nothing to actively manage our forests to control these massive heavy metal discharges from wildfires.

In addition, a growing threat to our long-term environment is the disposal of solar panels and the heavy metals that are included in those panels. Yet my colleagues have no plan for the disposal of the solar panels they are demanding PREPA impose on the people of Puerto Rico as a replacement for the affordable energy produced from this coal plant.

Again, the Majority has held a long hearing whining about the wrong type of affordable energy for poor communities. Yet they have nearly no solutions that provide the communities affordable energy.

For three years, this Committee has actively opposed offshore wind opportunities for Puerto Rico by failing to consider Ms. Gonzalez's bill creating an offshore wind leasing program for the territories.

If you want an energy transition for Puerto Rico, Republicans on this Committee like Ms. Gonzalez have real solutions, yet the real hurdle is the Democrat Majority standing in the way.