



**Opening Statement of Chair Kathy Castor
Hearing on “Solving the Climate Crisis: Reducing Industrial Emissions Through U.S.
Innovation”
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
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As prepared for delivery

It’s been a busy week for climate action. Kicking things off last Friday, young people and adults around the world united for the global climate strike. Here in DC, I was humbled to witness our own young activists lead the march for climate action.

On Monday, world leaders gathered in New York to call for urgent action to reduce carbon pollution and meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. President Trump was notably absent from the lineup.

Our job on this committee is to try to fill the policy void left at the national level by the president.

To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit warming as much as we can to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we will have to reduce emissions from every sector of the economy. Our committee has heard from experts on how to reduce pollution from the power and transportation sectors, both of which have received the most attention from policymakers at the state and federal levels.

Today, we’re here to tackle the industrial sector. This is the sector we count on to make raw materials—like steel and cement—for our buildings and infrastructure. It’s the sector that makes the fertilizer to grow our food and the metals, plastics, and chemicals that go into the products we use every day. It’s responsible for more than \$3 trillion of U.S. GDP and almost 20 million jobs.

Industry also contributes nearly 30% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Many industrial processes use large amounts of energy and require high temperature process heat that cannot be electrified. Some industries release carbon dioxide from chemical reactions in the production process, which cannot be avoided. This makes industry one of the most difficult sectors to decarbonize.

Difficult, but not impossible.

As our panelists today will share, we already have tools at our disposal to reduce emissions from this sector, and others are promising. Industrial efficiency technologies, like combined heat and power and waste heat to power, are already commercially available but require high upfront capital costs to implement. Carbon capture of industrial carbon dioxide streams is being

demonstrated around the world but is far from being widely deployed. Technologies like low-carbon cement and concrete and renewable hydrogen for industrial energy and feedstocks have great potential but need further development to be cost effective.

To reach the scale of deployment at the speed needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, we must put policies in place to incentivize all stages of research, development, demonstration, and deployment of these technologies. That's where we come in.

As we craft policies for this sector, we must consider any potential impacts on production and employment. Many industrial products are globally-traded commodities, which means they are very sensitive to cost increases. Well-designed policies can reduce emissions while maintaining U.S. competitiveness and preventing off-shoring of family-sustaining industrial jobs in the United States.

We do not have to choose between reducing emissions and maintaining a robust industrial sector. I am confident that American innovation, coupled with smart policies, will be the key.