

U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)
Testimony for the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
November 14, 2019

Chairwoman Castor, Ranking Member Graves, thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony for the record.

The United States is in the middle of an energy renaissance. We are producing more energy in the United State than ever before. At the same time, we are leading the world in carbon emission reduction. This is in part due to the increase of natural gas in our energy mix.

Natural gas paired with renewables like wind and solar is a great way to reduce carbon emissions. In my home state of Oklahoma, which one might normally think of as an oil and gas state, is now the second largest producer of wind energy in the nation. We have plenty of wind and plenty of gas.

Congress is too hasty to pick winners and losers in our energy industry. I believe we need to take an all-of-the-above approach that uses all of resources. However, one type of energy is consistently forgotten about in conversations around Capitol Hill- Renewable Natural Gas.

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), or biomethane, is captured above ground from organic material in agriculture, wastewater, landfill, or food waste. In simpler terms, this technology takes methane, which is worse for the air than carbon dioxide, cleans and purifies it, and sticks it straight into a natural gas pipeline which can be used for natural gas vehicles, electricity generation, and home heating.

When using RNG it produces a net carbon-neutral and even carbon-negative results¹. Over the last five years, RNG has increased 577 percent, displacing seven million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. And unlike wind and solar, this renewable energy is not intermittent. RNG can be produced 24/7.

Some of my colleagues want to support the Green New Deal, whose creators say we need to get rid of cows because of their methane producing flatulence. However, using RNG we take that methane out of the atmosphere and turn it into clean renewable fuel. From cow farts to clean energy- that could be the future.

I urge my colleagues as we look at ways to reduce our emissions, we look at the benefits of all energy sources, including RNG. We need to lead the innovation here in the United States so that we can export our technologies to the world and be a leader in clean and efficient energy.

¹ <https://www.ngvamerica.org/2019/04/16/renewable-natural-gas-on-road-fuel-reaches-historical-high/>