

**Statement of the Honorable Greg Walden  
Full Committee Markup  
July 18, 2018**

Good afternoon. We meet today to consider two important bills that will advance our public health efforts and address key challenges facing America's nuclear energy industry.

H.R 6351, the Advancing U.S. Civil Nuclear Competitiveness and Jobs Act, makes targeted reforms to the interagency review process that authorizes exports of civilian nuclear technologies. A more robust civilian nuclear export market is crucial to our economy and national security. This legislation, sponsored by Representative Johnson, passed the Energy Subcommittee last month with bipartisan support.

International competition in global nuclear markets is dominated by our foreign adversaries using resources from state-backed governments to subsidize commercial bids. These activities are

purposefully directed to establish a multi-generational strategic relationship between our adversaries and emerging markets.

Rep. Johnson's bill adds some certainty for American nuclear suppliers to engage in foreign commerce, by enabling more efficient decision-making at DOE and in the interagency process. Its provisions would especially help the export of low-risk technologies with countries that is not contrary to our national interest. This bill advances our national security interests by enabling our American nuclear industry to compete and win in foreign markets.

We'll also consider bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, or PAHPA. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress and our country writ-large have taken important steps to fortify our health preparedness and response infrastructure for a wide range of potential threats.

Whether it's the Zika virus or last year's devastating hurricane season, it's clear the threats facing our country are diverse and extremely challenging.

In my home state I think about the possibility for a devastating earthquake known as Cascadia, which could take thousands of lives in Oregon and leave behind tens of billions of dollars-worth of damage.

Responses to these threats, and others, requires the collaboration of all levels of government with our partners in the private sector. That's why this legislation is so important.

PAHPA was first enacted in 2006 to establish a strategic plan to direct research, development, and procurement of medical countermeasures, and created the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Biodefense Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within HHS to coordinate these efforts.

I'd like to applaud Representatives Brooks and Eshoo for leading this critical reauthorization. It is a true "must-pass" bill that has only been strengthened by working together.

By passing this bill out of committee today, we are one step closer to ensuring this vital reauthorization is signed into law before the end of September.

So I urge my colleagues to support these measures, so we can enhance the global competitiveness of our domestic nuclear suppliers, and strengthen our preparedness and response systems to ensure we are ready for any and all threats that face our country and our citizens.