

Opening Statement  
Chairman Bobby L. Rush  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Markup of 38 Bills  
*September 9, 2020*

Good morning. Through today's markup the Committee on Energy and Commerce will move legislation that supports the government's delivery of security and assistance to the American people.

This includes legislation to strengthen the Department of Energy through structural improvements related to the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile and to expand access to clean and efficient energy.

With this in mind, I applaud Congressmen O'Halleran and Mullin for introducing the EASE Act, which establishes a grant program to expand grid energy storage access within rural communities.

Mr. Chairman, I also thank you and Ranking Member Walden for your bipartisan bill, H.R. 8159, the "Department of Energy Organization and Management Improvement Act", which would bolster DOE's organizational structure to support its mission — which includes the civilian control of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to see the inclusion of the American COMPETE Act.

This bipartisan legislation, which I was proud to introduce with Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, is an important and necessary step in maintaining the United States' global competitiveness and protecting Americans across the country from the online harms that are far too common in this day and age.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for including the School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act in today's markup.

I am especially grateful because, as I stated in a letter to you this past April, funding for school-based health centers addresses one of my top priorities. Namely, that we must ensure communities of color have the resources they require to reduce the racial health gap highlighted by this pandemic. This is a vital need, and this bill takes an important step in that direction.

And with that I yield back.