

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Ranking Member Diana DeGette**  
  
***Markup of 20 Bills, Full Committee***  
**March 9, 2023**

I thank the gentlelady, and I've got to say, I'm a bit disappointed with the bills that we're considering today, because almost all of the 20 bills are partisan messaging bills that are just being rammed through the committee.

Eight of the bills are from the energy subcommittee, and unfortunately, all of them are partisan, the minority was not consulted on a single one of them, and they were almost unanimously opposed by all the Democrats last week. I suspect that will be the case again today.

These bills that my colleagues claim would make the United States energy independent and bring down the cost of energy but in fact, they would not achieve these goals.

They wouldn't bring down the cost of energy at home, they wouldn't increase our nation's energy security, and they wouldn't strengthen our critical energy infrastructure.

And the reason why, and forgive me if I'm sounding like a broken record, but I keep saying this: the oil market is an international market, whose prices are subject to the volatility of the international market, and these bills would embrace that volatile market and make natural gas prices at home vulnerable to the same fluctuations in the international market.

And so that's why we can't drill our way to energy independence. These bills would only further our dependence on oil and gas, and they don't do anything more than a giveaway to the oil and gas industry, which once again is bringing in record profits.

H.R. 1130, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, would repeal a public interest determination required for the export of U.S. LNG, making American natural gas further subject to the volatility of the global market, which only will destabilize prices here at home.

H.R. 1115, the Promoting Interagency Coordination Review for Natural Gas Pipelines Act would essentially require FERC to rubber stamp the construction of new natural gas pipelines while running roughshod over the ability of other agencies to review its work.

Two pieces of legislation H.R. 1058 and H.Con.Res.14 would attempt to revive the Keystone XL Pipeline, which was terminated nearly two years ago! And those are the energy bills.

From the environment subcommittee, we've got seven partisan bills that would gut our bedrock environmental laws that protect the air we breathe and the water that we drink.

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These are another gift to the oil and gas industry and they're going to undo critical programs that will put us on the path to a better future.

The bills that we have today, they don't do anything to protect our environment or ensure energy security.

Instead, they just send a message to the oil and gas industry that they get to call the shots.

But, being an optimist, I have a word of positive thought to say: we're getting these messaging bills out of the way. I think that's a good thing.

Because maybe, after this, we can actually get down to the business of legislating in a bipartisan way to have a clean energy future, to have energy independence and to begin to bend the climate curve.

And with that, Madam Chair, I yield back.