



February 23, 2018

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “State of the Nation’s Energy Infrastructure”

I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled “State of the Nation’s Energy Infrastructure.” The hearing will explore challenges and opportunities related to the maintenance, modernization, and development of energy infrastructure.

II. WITNESSES

- **Brian Slocum**, Vice President of Operations, ITC Holdings Corporation;
- **Jim Ross**, Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers;
- **Brenda Hellyer**, Chancellor, San Jacinto College;
- **John Devine**, Senior Vice President, HDR Inc.;
- **Jennifer Chen**, Sustainable FERC Project Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council;
and,
- **Gary McCarthy**, Mayor, City of Schenectady.

III. BACKGROUND

As the Nation’s energy mix changes, continued infrastructure investments are essential to maximize reliability and efficiency, while reducing the cost of energy and goods for consumers. While some existing infrastructure (*e.g.*, roads and bridges) depends on Federal and State funding for maintenance and modernization, much of the Nation’s energy infrastructure (*e.g.*, pipelines, electric transmission facilities, power plants) depends on private sector investments. However, while different ownership and investment models exist, taxpayers, ratepayers, or other users generally pay for the cost of the energy infrastructure, regardless of whether it is publicly or privately owned.

The Federal government can encourage the development of new energy infrastructure, as well as the modernization and development of existing infrastructure, by improving the current regulatory environment and fostering public-private partnerships to achieve these shared goals. Given the important role that energy plays in our economy, the Federal government’s encouragement of energy infrastructure investment can provide unparalleled opportunity for growth and job creation.

To fully capitalize on America's newfound energy abundance, Congress should continue to consider ways to encourage investment, support technological advancement, and streamline the regulatory process for infrastructure projects. Since last year, the Committee has held dozens of infrastructure-related hearings and the House has passed legislation to address interstate pipeline siting, hydropower licensing, and cross-border energy infrastructure.¹

Congress should also consider ways to improve education and training for energy and manufacturing workers. In 2016 alone, the energy sector added approximately 300,000 net new jobs, primarily in the renewable energy and energy infrastructure sectors. However, thousands of additional jobs remain unfilled in construction, supply chain management, renewable energy installation, and energy efficiency, primarily due to a lack of qualified workers.² The Committee has prioritized workforce training and supported legislation that would establish and carry out a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy and manufacturing-related jobs.³

IV. ISSUES

The following issues may be examined at the hearing:

- Regulatory challenges associated with the siting, construction, and operation of energy infrastructure projects;
- Ways to further public-private partnerships with the energy industry, schools, workforce development organizations, and Federal agencies to prepare workers for skilled positions in the energy sector; and,
- Challenges and opportunities associated with the changing energy landscape, including fuels and generation mix, infrastructure and capacity constraints, and workforce needs.

V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Brandon Mooney, Jason Stanek, or Mary Martin of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

¹ See e.g. H.R. 2910, Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act; H.R. 2883, Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act; H.R. 2872, Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act; H.R. 2880, Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act; H.R. 3043, the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017; and, H.R. 2786, To Amend the Federal Power Act with Respect to the Criteria and Process to Qualify as a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility.

² U.S. Department of Energy, [U.S. Energy and Employment Report](#) (2017).

³ See H.R. 338, To promote a 21st Century energy and manufacturing workforce.