

1 Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.

2 RPTS GONZALEZ

3 HIF156030

4

5

6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 3616, RELIABLE POWER ACT;

8 H.R. 1047, GRID POWER ACT;

9 H.R. 3632, POWER PLANT RELIABILITY ACT OF 2025;

10 H.R. 3638, ELECTRIC SUPPLY CHAIN ACT;

11 H.R. 3157, STATE ENERGY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT;

12 H.R. 3628, STATE PLANNING FOR RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY
13 ACT;

14 H.R. 3657, HYDROPOWER RELICENSING TRANSPARENCY ACT;

15 H.R. 3015, NATIONAL COAL COUNCIL REESTABLISHMENT ACT;

16 H.R. 3617, SECURING AMERICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY ACT;

17 H.R. 3109, REFINER ACT;

18 H.R. 3062, PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT;

19 H.R. 1949, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2025;

20 AND

21 H.R. 3668, IMPROVING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION FOR PIPELINE
22 REVIEWS ACT.

23 THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

24 House of Representatives,

25 Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security,

26 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

27 Washington, D.C.

28

29 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:02 a.m. in
30 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bob Latta
31 [chairman of the subcommittee], presiding.

32

33 Present: Representatives Latta, Weber, Palmer, Allen,
34 Balderson, Pfluger, Harshbarger, James, Bentz, Fry,
35 Langworthy, Rulli, Evans, Goldman, Fedorchak, Guthrie (ex
36 officio); Castor, Peters, Menendez, Mullin, McClellan,
37 DeGette, Matsui, Tonko, Veasey, Schrier, Fletcher, Ocasio-
38 Cortez, Auchincloss, and Pallone (ex officio).

39

40 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
41 Clara Cargile, Professional Staff Member; Jessica Donlon,
42 General Counsel; Andrew Furman, Professional Staff Member;
43 Sydney Greene, Director of Finance and Logistics; Emily Hale,
44 Staff Assistant; Annabelle Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins,
45 Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk;
46 Daniel Kelly, Press Secretary; Sophie Khanahmadei, Deputy
47 Staff Director; Alex Khlopin, Clerk; Brayden Lacefield,
48 Special Assistant; Mary Martin, Chief Counsel; Brandon Sarah
49 Meier, Counsel and Parliamentarian; Joel Miller, Chief
50 Counsel; Ben Mullaney, Press Secretary; Seth Ricketts,
51 Special Assistant; Jackson Rudden, Staff Assistant; Chris
52 Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder Director; Peter Spencer,
53 Senior Professional Staff Member; Matt VanHyfte,
54 Communications Director; Katie West, Press Secretary; Waverly
55 Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel;
56 Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director; Anthony
57 Gutierrez, Minority Professional Staff Member; Caitlin
58 Haberman, Minority Staff Director, EVN; Perry Hamilton,
59 Minority Member Services & Outreach Manager; La'Zale Johnson,
60 Minority Intern; Mackenzie Kuhl, Minority Digital Manager;
61 Kristopher Pittard, Minority Professional Staff Member; Emma
62 Roehrig, Minority Staff Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority
63 Policy Analyst; Destiny Sheppard, Minority Intern; Medha
64 Surampudy, Minority Professional Staff Member; Tuley Wright,

65 Minority Staff Director, ENG; and C.J. Young, Minority Deputy
66 Communications Director

67

68 *Mr. Latta. The subcommittee will come to order, and
69 the chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

70 Welcome to today's subcommittee markup of 13 bills to
71 increase energy production and restore energy leadership.

72 Over the last few months this subcommittee has held
73 several hearings to examine the issues holding back our
74 ability to meet projected energy demand growth over the next
75 decade. In our first hearing of Congress this subcommittee
76 heard from national security experts and energy workers to
77 hear the importance of American energy for the world's
78 future. We have also heard directly from the power sector to
79 discuss challenges meeting current demand, as well as the
80 ability to scale up operations to meet projected demand
81 growth. Additionally, the subcommittee had executives from
82 each of the nation's RTOs and ISOs to hear a boots-on-the-
83 ground perspective from grid operators. Finally, this
84 subcommittee held a legislative hearing on the suit of -- the
85 suite of the -- the suit of the legislation from the
86 Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory
87 Commission, as well as representatives from impacted
88 industries.

89 At each of the subcommittee's hearings I asked each of
90 our witnesses if we needed more or less energy moving
91 forward. Every single one agreed that we need much more
92 energy to power our nation's economic and technological

93 future. I believe the legislation we are considering today
94 will help address the challenges our energy and power sectors
95 face as they work to provide abundant, reliable, and
96 affordable energy to consumers.

97 The subcommittee will consider several pieces of
98 legislation aimed at addressing threats to our bulk power
99 system and resource adequacy. The gentleman from Ohio's 12th
100 district's Reliable Power Act would amend the Federal Power
101 Act to require FERC to review the Federal regulations that
102 impact reliability.

103 Additionally, the subcommittee will consider the
104 gentleman from Ohio's 12th district's Grid Power Act, which
105 would direct FERC to require the transmission providers
106 prioritize and expedite interconnection queue requests for
107 dispatchable generation projects.

108 The subcommittee will also consider the gentleman from
109 Virginia's 9th district's Power Plant Reliability Act, which
110 will allow affected parties to contest the retirement of
111 generation resources. Over the next 10 years 115 gigawatts
112 of dispatchable generation has been announced to be retired
113 across the United States, while demand is estimated to
114 increase by upwards of 151 gigawatts.

115 To ensure reliability and affordability, it is
116 imperative that our avenues to keep generation online are
117 available. This includes hydropower, which is why the

118 subcommittee will consider the bipartisan legislation led by
119 the gentlelady from Washington's 8th district to increase
120 transparency from FERC regarding the status of relicensing
121 applications for hydropower dams.

122 Following up on President Trump's reinvigorating
123 America's beautiful, clean coal industry executive order, the
124 gentleman from Ohio's 6th district's National Coal Council
125 Reestablishment Act will codify the National Coal Council,
126 which will focus on keeping baseload generation online.

127 The gentleman from New York's 23rd district's State
128 Energy Accountability Act and the gentleman from Colorado's
129 8th district's State Planning for Reliability and
130 Affordability Act both amend PURPA to require states to
131 consider requirements to evaluate reliability and long-term
132 resource planning.

133 We will also consider legislation aimed at assessing and
134 securing electric and critical mineral supply chains, which
135 will play a vital role in the ability to build out
136 infrastructure.

137 Creating an environment that promotes the building of
138 infrastructure is also imperative as energy demand grows.
139 The subcommittee will consider the Improving Interagency
140 Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act, the
141 Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025, the REFINER
142 Act, and the Promoting Cross Border Energy Infrastructure

143 Act, which will improve Federal permitting process to unlock
144 development of much-needed oil, gas, and petrochemical
145 infrastructure.

146 I had hoped to work with our Democratic colleagues on
147 more of this legislation, including my electric supply chain
148 bill, which all members should want to support, given the
149 challenges today to getting our key components for our grid.
150 Unfortunately, at this point we have been unable to find as
151 much bipartisan as I would have hoped. But we will continue
152 conversations with my colleagues on the other side, including
153 with the gentlelady from Florida's 14th district and ranking
154 member, on her interconnection queue legislation.

155 As energy demand is projected to grow to staggering
156 levels, we must enact policies that increase supply,
157 infrastructure, and reliability in the energy sector while
158 lowering costs for American families and businesses. The
159 bills before us today do just that, and I urge all my
160 colleagues to support them.

161 And with this I yield back and I now recognize the
162 gentlelady from Florida, the ranking member of the
163 subcommittee, for five minutes for her opening statement.

164 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
165 morning, colleagues.

166 You know, America is enjoying a clean energy
167 manufacturing boom, 400,000 new jobs in nuclear, solar, wind,

168 batteries, geothermals, geothermal vehicles, and component
169 parts being made in America, thanks in large part to the
170 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 and our historic Clean
171 Energy Law passed in 2022. We have been connecting cleaner,
172 cheaper energy to the grid, reshoring jobs, boosting our
173 competitiveness including our automakers and workers across
174 industries, countering China. Old manufacturing sites in
175 energy communities have found new life. But in what can only
176 be described as self-sabotage, in just a few short months the
177 new administration and Republicans in Congress have turned
178 America's manufacturing boom into a slump: 62,000 jobs lost.
179 They have taken an arbitrary chainsaw to energy and
180 conservation projects that save consumers money, and they
181 have added the higher cost of tariffs and chaos on top of it
182 all. All of it is driving electric bills and inflation
183 higher.

184 This package of bills the committee will consider today
185 will make it worse, and the GOP will own the energy price
186 spikes in the months ahead. Who will benefit while consumers
187 are paying more? Oil, gas, coal corporations, and their
188 lobbyists. This comes on the heels of the big ugly bill
189 passed by House Republicans that rips away health care from
190 16 million Americans, adds \$2.4 trillion to the debt to pay
191 for tax breaks for billionaires. But the higher electric
192 bills and the job losses driven by that big, ugly bill

193 haven't gotten as much attention. But the early analysis of
194 the billionaire boondoggle bill paints a very grim picture.

195 Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter six
196 independent analyses into the record, each of which show that
197 the bill will result in higher electricity costs and less
198 cheap energy.

199 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

200 [The information follows:]

201

202 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

203

204 *Ms. Castor. So let's dive into this. I have a poster
205 to show you.

206 [Chart]

207 *Ms. Castor. Total U.S. electricity demand is forecast
208 to increase by 15.8 percent, or 128 gigawatts, in the next 4
209 years. By gutting the clean energy tax credits, Republicans
210 have charted a course to decrease new electricity capacity
211 additions by 302 gigawatts by 2035, which is enough to power
212 227 million homes. So if Republicans have their way, we will
213 not build the energy to power U.S. leadership in artificial
214 intelligence or advanced manufacturing, and those sectors
215 will move abroad.

216 [Chart]

217 *Ms. Castor. My second poster. Not only will we have
218 less electricity, it will also be more expensive, costs
219 passed directly on to American families. The Republicans'
220 big ugly bill will increase average household energy costs by
221 230 to \$400 per year. So Republicans haven't just turned
222 their backs on the fastest-growing, cleanest, and cheapest
223 sources of energy, but they are now actively sabotaging home-
224 grown energy, jobs, and family budgets.

225 I know it is June, but for Republicans every day is
226 Valentine's Day when it comes to big oil and gas. And this
227 package of bills we will consider today is a prime example.
228 Some of the bills are unnecessary. Some are heavy-handed

229 mandates that threaten innovation and competition in energy
230 markets. They will add billions of dollars in costs already
231 to rising energy prices while doing nothing to safeguard
232 reliability.

233 DoE already has the authority to delay power plant
234 closures to maintain reliability, so this -- we look forward
235 to a healthy debate today.

236 And Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate you including
237 Congresswoman Schrier's Hydropower Relicensing Transparency
238 Act. That is an important effort to provide Congress with
239 more insight on a significant source of clean, firm power.
240 However, I am disappointed that Republicans are unwilling to
241 consider low-hanging fruit, the Expediting Generator
242 Interconnection Connection Procedures Act -- that is a
243 mouthful -- in today's markup, despite the expert testimony
244 we heard in our April hearing about how it could bring all
245 types of generators online quickly.

246 You know, businesses large and small across the United
247 States want to manufacture, build, and use cheap, clean
248 energy. But Republicans are taking those opportunities away
249 from them. Instead of raising electric bills and
250 exacerbating the job slump, I urge GOP colleagues to get back
251 to working together to advance policies that deliver more
252 affordable energy to our neighbors back home with a modern,
253 reliable grid, real solutions that meet the magnitude of the

254 challenges we face today.

255 Thank you, and I yield back.

256 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back and
257 the chair now recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky, the
258 chairman of the full committee, for five minutes for an
259 opening statement.

260 *The Chair. Thank you, Chairman Latta and the members
261 of this subcommittee, for this important work to advance
262 American leadership through energy abundance.

263 Today the Energy Subcommittee is considering 13 pieces
264 of legislation that are critical to fueling American energy
265 production, securing U.S. leadership in the next generation
266 industries, empowering our nation's electric grid with
267 reliable and affordable energy.

268 Throughout our history the prosperity and security of
269 the United States has always been linked to reliable and
270 affordable energy. Today's world is no different. We are on
271 the precipice of dramatic change that could be shaped by the
272 outcome of our race with China for AI leadership and efforts
273 to restore job creating industries, all of which require a
274 staggering increase in our energy supplies, and there is no
275 time to waste.

276 This committee has spent considerable time this Congress
277 already studying how AI has the potential to change everyday
278 lives, raise standards of living, improve health outcomes,

279 and lift people out of poverty. But if we fail to win the
280 race to AI domination to an authoritarian regime like China,
281 we risk ceding the next-generation technologies to a
282 communist regime that does not share our democratic values.
283 Energy security and supply is key to developing the AI
284 infrastructure we need to be globally competitive.

285 With that in mind, the Energy Subcommittee has been hard
286 at work to reverse the course from the Biden-Harris
287 Administration's energy transition to chart a path towards
288 energy abundance. If we want to see what energy transitions
289 look like, we can look no further than our allies in Europe
290 who are struggling to keep the lights on because of the
291 aggressive policy decisions of left-leaning governments.
292 These same countries rely -- continue to rely on Russian
293 natural gas instead of cleaner burning and affordable
294 American LNG.

295 Meanwhile, manufacturing energy-intensive industries are
296 fleeing the European continent in search of better investment
297 opportunities. We cannot follow suit. Only this past
298 Memorial Day weekend we were reminded of our own ongoing
299 electric reliability crisis and constrained energy supplies
300 as a southern portion of MISO was forced to initiate an
301 emergency load-shedding event to prevent widespread outages
302 due to higher-than-expected demand.

303 During the 119th Congress this committee has held

304 several hearings with grid operators, engineers, and experts
305 in the energy industry that are sounding the alarm of our
306 state's -- state of our national energy system. We were told
307 that policies designed to subsidize renewable technologies
308 are resulting in a concerning imbalance, with baseload power
309 coming offline, which is undermining stability of the
310 electric system. We heard from witnesses that not all
311 electrons are a one-for-one substitute, and that we should
312 not be taking baseload power plants offline without
313 sufficient and comparable replacements.

314 I would remind my colleagues: If AI models could run on
315 just wind and solar power, they would be doing so already.

316 To fuel American energy abundance the bills before us
317 today address key impediments to an efficient and cost-
318 effective infrastructure development while identifying
319 opportunities to expand our refining capacity, improve our
320 hydropower permitting process, and secure our energy supply
321 chains.

322 In addition, the bills before us today will ensure
323 timely interconnection of dispatchable resources and rightly
324 place the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, in
325 the federal authority on reliability to prevent a future
326 Clean Power Plan 3.0.

327 Importantly, legislation before us today will bolster
328 our energy production and advance our national security

329 interests by reversing the Biden Administration LNG export
330 ban and streamlining permitting for natural gas pipelines to
331 fuel investment in energy-intensive industries while lowering
332 costs for hard-working households.

333 All together, the bills before our subcommittee today
334 take an important step to advancing President Trump's energy
335 dominance agenda and cement our nation's role as the global
336 leader in energy production.

337 I appreciate you holding this markup, Mr. Chairman, and
338 I yield back the balance of my time.

339 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back, and
340 the chair now recognizes for five minutes the gentleman from
341 New Jersey, the ranking member of the full committee.

342 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

343 Over the last month, between their big ugly tax bill and
344 the bills we are marking up today, Trump and the Republicans
345 have unveiled their energy strategy that will make energy
346 less affordable for families, undermine clean energy, and
347 allow big oil and gas to build polluting infrastructure
348 wherever they want, regardless of the consequences.

349 Independent modeling has found that the big, ugly GOP
350 tax bill will increase household power bills by more than
351 \$400 per year, and that is on top of the annual \$5,000 that
352 President Trump's chaotic global trade war will cost American
353 families. The GOP ugly bill will destroy any progress we

354 have made towards revitalizing energy manufacturing and
355 supporting innovation in America. And I simply do not
356 understand how, at a time when power demand is increasing,
357 Republicans are doing everything they can to cut off new
358 sources of electricity.

359 At the same time, they are insisting on increasing
360 demand for natural gas while also trying to make the supply
361 of domestic gas go down because more of it will be sent
362 overseas. It is a recipe for higher prices and disaster for
363 the American people. And yet Republicans are dead set on
364 doubling down on their plan to increase prices.

365 Several of the bills that are before us today will do
366 just that, either by forcing families to pay for uneconomic
367 coal plants to stay online or by allowing unlimited exports
368 of LNG that will drive up heating and cooking costs. The
369 subcommittee heard testimony at the end of April explicitly
370 stating that these bills would explode costs for Americans
371 across the country. But that is all fine under the
372 Republican energy agenda of driving up energy costs on
373 American families.

374 Now, there are other bills today that blatantly
375 discriminate against clean sources of energy. These bills
376 are proof that Republicans have never been for all of the
377 above. The only energy that they care about is us fossil
378 fuels. And every other source of energy, no matter how

379 useful it is, must be left behind.

380 Republicans seem also content with giving the Department
381 of Energy more and more work with several of the bills today,
382 without acknowledging or trying to understand the impact of
383 the serious staffing reductions the Trump Administration has
384 indiscriminately and chaotically implemented. Rather than
385 working with us to get answers from the Administration on how
386 DoE plans to complete what it is already tasked with,
387 Republicans are intent to ask you to do even more with less.

388 Now, some of the bills before us were already passed by
389 House Republicans as part of the GOP big, ugly tax bill.
390 Republicans are clearly marking them up today again because
391 they don't believe they are going to survive the so-called
392 birdbath in the Senate. That is why we are revisiting them
393 again today. In fact, Republicans already had to knock two
394 of these permitting provisions out of their bills before it
395 even passed the House.

396 So, to be clear, Republicans are so desperate to sell
397 out the public interest for natural gas pipelines and LNG
398 facilities that they will create an entire pay-to-play
399 permitting regime out of thin air. Republicans want to allow
400 pipeline developers and LNG exporters to pay government
401 agencies upwards of \$10 million to acquire permits, free of
402 any scrutiny. Just imagine the kind of corruption that this
403 could produce, and none of it is in the public interest.

404 What Republicans are going to tell you today is that
405 these bills are somehow unnecessary to power the increasing
406 electricity demand from artificial intelligence, but that is
407 not true. We have heard from AI and data center business
408 leaders multiple times this Congress, and they were all
409 clear: We have to do the exact opposite of what Republicans
410 are attempting to do. To power AI we need a grid that is
411 affordable, reliable, and clean. If the bills we are marking
412 up today were ever enacted, our bid would be expensive -- I
413 should say our grid would be expensive -- unstable, and
414 dirty, and that will be a crisis that none of us can afford.

415 So again, I don't understand the purpose of today's
416 hearing, other than to double down on the same things that we
417 heard as part of the budget reconciliation. And none of that
418 is going to actually lead to us more electricity. None of
419 that is going to lead to more affordable prices. And all of
420 it, you know, leads to more and more dependance on fossil
421 fuels, which totally belies the whole all-of-the-above
422 philosophy.

423 And I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, you know, I
424 believe in all of the above. We work together on nuclear
425 power. You know, we have worked together on a lot of
426 different sources. There is no reason to prioritize fossil
427 fuels, which is what is going on today.

428 And with that I will yield back the balance of my time.

429 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
430 back the balance of his time.

431 The chair reminds members that, pursuant to committee
432 rules, all members' opening statements will be made part of
433 the record. Are there further opening statements?

434 For what purpose does the gentleman from California wish
435 to be recognized?

436 *Mr. Peters. I wish to make an opening statement, Mr.
437 Chair.

438 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for three
439 minutes for an opening statement.

440 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this
441 important markup.

442 We have all said over and over again one of our greatest
443 challenges this century will be keeping the lights on and the
444 costs of energy low while modernizing our energy system to
445 keep pace with the rapid growth of our society. Now we are
446 facing this unprecedented increase in energy demand from data
447 centers, manufacturing, and population growth that we are
448 currently not prepared to handle. We need to use all the
449 tools at our disposal to meet this challenge, but we are on a
450 path to failure. We are on a path to failure because
451 Congress is spending so much time on study bills and
452 messaging bills, instead of bipartisan policies that will
453 help us build the energy infrastructure we need to power the

454 economy.

455 Now, I am inclined to support most of the study bills we
456 are considering today, notwithstanding the significant loss
457 of brain power and expertise at the agencies that would be
458 completing the studies, because I think we should be setting
459 policy according to long-term, bipartisan energy strategy,
460 and not four-year or two-year election cycles.

461 The Senate permitting deal last year, the Energy
462 Permitting Reform Act, or EPRA, attempted to start to develop
463 that long-term strategy, which is why I was glad to support
464 it. And it contained core provisions of my bipartisan Speed
465 and Reliability Act, which would have helped make the energy
466 grid smarter, bigger, and stronger instead of old, small, and
467 dumb, which it is today.

468 The Speed and Reliability Act streamlines siting and
469 permitting for large transmission lines that demonstrably
470 improve grid reliability and reduce congestion with respect
471 to market demand, without touching cost allocation
472 whatsoever. This bill does this solely by improving existing
473 programs, eliminating permitting redundancies, and holding
474 states and Federal agencies accountable to project deadlines,
475 which I thought was a bipartisan permitting priority. Again,
476 the bill is bipartisan, costs no money, would shave five
477 years off permitting timelines if we pass it today. We are
478 not hearing that bill today. We are not hearing a number of

479 other -- we are only hearing one bill authored by a Democrat.

480 Another bill we could hear is the energy -- the
481 Generation Interconnection Procedures Act from Ms. Castor to
482 help us with the interconnection queue. There is a lot of
483 things we are just not hearing here. We should use hearings
484 as an opportunity to discuss ideas, but we haven't had that.

485 So if we are serious about keeping the lights on,
486 lowering costs, and ensuring reliability, we need to focus on
487 what is holding us back. The failure to build the --
488 particularly our failure to build transmission pipelines and
489 new generation of all types, which -- instead of fighting
490 over what is coming on and off the grid, we should work
491 together to expand and modernize it to accommodate all the
492 things we need.

493 And I really want to wish -- express again my interest
494 in working in a bipartisan way to deal with these problems.
495 We can't solve these problems under one-party rule. I think
496 we have seen that again and again. But if we are serious
497 about meeting energy demand and reducing costs, we need to
498 work together. And I am disappointed to see a lot of really
499 good ideas not before the committee today. And we will
500 continue to work to get them heard and passed.

501 I yield back.

502 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Are
503 there further opening statements?

504 The chair recognizes the gentleman from New York for an
505 opening statement for three minutes.

506 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I express my
507 disappointment with this markup's agenda. You have held
508 numerous hearings this year to examine how the United States
509 should address growing electricity demand. And essentially,
510 every single witness, whether they testified at the
511 invitation of Republicans or Democrats, agreed on two key
512 policy needs: first, we need to preserve tax incentives that
513 make it cheaper to build the generating resources that can be
514 built most quickly; and second, we need to make it easier to
515 permit, site, and build transmission infrastructure.

516 On the first point, we know the majority's position, a
517 reconciliation bill that every credible analyst has found is
518 going to raise energy prices for consumers, including
519 commercial and industrial energy users.

520 On the second issue, there is nothing among the bills
521 today that will allow us to effectively expand our grid
522 infrastructure to better integrate new loads, and there is
523 nothing to support using our existing grid infrastructure
524 more efficiently. Instead, we are finding new and
525 unnecessary ways to require consumers to pay more for
526 uncompetitive generators to hang around the system. This is
527 not the way to achieve what I believe is a shared, bipartisan
528 goal of promoting American AI leadership while making our

529 electric system modern, reliable, and, yes, affordable. This
530 is the wrong approach, and I would implore us to hit the
531 reset button and come together to work on policy solutions
532 that actually address the challenges that will determine
533 whether or not we are a globally competitive economy in the
534 decades to come.

535 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

536 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. Are there other opening
537 statements?

538 The gentlelady from Texas is recognized for three
539 minutes for an opening statement.

540 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you, Chairman Latta. And
541 just before we consider the bills before us today, I really
542 want to put them in the context of the moment that we are in
543 and reflect on that.

544 This subcommittee has held four hearings so far this
545 Congress, all focused on the skyrocketing energy demand. And
546 witnesses representing every segment of the energy sector
547 have made it clear that we need more, not less, energy
548 production, and that we need more investment in energy
549 innovation. And instead of listening to the experts'
550 guidance on these pressing matters, the Trump Administration
551 is instead slashing Federal investments that Congress has
552 made in energy products -- projects, and implementing and
553 instituting these tariffs that are going to drive up

554 electricity costs. And our constituents are going to see
555 that on their electric bills.

556 But rather than doing anything to stop the President and
557 the Administration's actions to take over the role of
558 Congress, whether it is the appropriations that we have made,
559 the projects that we have authorized, or our ability and
560 responsibility to deal with tariffs, we are acting as if it
561 is business as usual around here, and it is not.

562 And making matters worse, the reconciliation bill that
563 the House just passed cut investments in energy efficiency
564 and in innovation and in deployment of these technologies
565 that we have been talking about on our committee are so
566 important. Just last week the Department of Energy announced
567 \$3.7 billion in cuts to the DoE Office of Clean Energy
568 Demonstration Programs, and they included groundbreaking
569 projects in the Gulf Coast, in the area that I represent,
570 that would have provided and guaranteed good jobs for folks
571 who work in the energy industry. And they would have built
572 on Texas's leadership in the technologies of the future like
573 hydrogen and carbon capture.

574 And I think it is really important to recognize that,
575 that, you know, in 2023 Texas generated more electricity and
576 produced more oil and natural gas than any other state.
577 Texas led U.S. states in wind power generation and Texas led
578 in solar generation. We are second in solar generation and

579 battery storage. So we can do it all in Texas. We are doing
580 it all. And we have made huge strides in permitting reform
581 and in grid interconnection, the kinds of things we are
582 talking about here.

583 And I just want to remind my colleagues that those
584 investments were driven by our Republican governors, Governor
585 Bush and Governor Perry. This should not be partisan. It
586 doesn't need to be partisan. So I hope we can do that
587 important work here, including permitting reform, and be
588 visionary on this committee and expand and invest in these
589 resources, rather than limit and constrain our ability to
590 have that vision and to move us into the future, because that
591 is what energy dominance really is.

592 Thank you, and I yield back.

593 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentlelady yields
594 back. Are there any further opening statements?

595 Seeing none, the chair calls up H.R. 3616, and asks the
596 clerk to report.

597 *The Clerk. H.R. 3616, a bill to require the Federal
598 Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may
599 affect --

600 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
601 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
602 amendment at any point.

603 So ordered.

604 [The bill follows:]

605

606 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

607

608 *Mr. Balderson. Mr. Chairman?

609 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from
610 Ohio's 12th district seek recognition?

611 *Mr. Balderson. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in
612 the nature of a substitute at the desk.

613 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

614 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
615 H.R. 3616, offered by Mr. Balderson. Section 1, short title.
616 This act --

617 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
618 amendment is dispensed with.

619 [The amendment of Mr. Balderson follows:]

620

621 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

622

623 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman is recognized for five
624 minutes in support of the amendment.

625 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would
626 like to thank you, Chairman Latta, for holding this markup
627 today and moving this bill forward.

628 The Reliable Power Act would ensure proper coordination
629 between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC,
630 and Federal agencies issuing regulations impacting the bulk
631 power system such as the Department of Energy and EPA. This
632 bill builds off the GRID Act, which was introduced by my
633 friend and former colleague, Chairman Jeff Duncan, and passed
634 the full committee last Congress.

635 The text of the AINS in the introduced bill contains
636 technical changes to the discussion draft from the
637 legislative hearing based on comments and feedback we
638 received from FERC and NERC. I would like to thank our
639 committee staff for their work and dedication in making sure
640 that the feedback was included and addressed in this bill.

641 The Reliable Power Act provides Federal accountability
642 for reliability and ensures regulations that involve power
643 generation, protect the reliability of the electrical grid,
644 and ultimately protect our constituents.

645 First, the bill would require NERC, the electrical
646 reliability organization, to conduct annual, long-term
647 reliability assessments of the bulk power system. If NERC

648 finds the bulk power system is at risk of not having adequate
649 generation to supply sufficient energy to maintain an
650 adequate level of reliability, it must notify FERC, and that
651 system is in the state of generation and adequacy.

652 The bill would then direct FERC to notify DoE, the EPA,
653 and any agency it determines appropriate of the state of
654 generation inadequacy. Upon such notice the notified agency
655 is required to send rules under development that impact
656 generation resources to FERC for review and comment, and
657 recommendations to prevent significant impacts on the ability
658 of the grid to supply sufficient energy to maintain an
659 adequate level of reliability. Under the Reliable Power Act,
660 no rule that affects generation resources can be finalized if
661 FERC determines that rule would have a significant negative
662 impact on the ability of the grid to supply sufficient energy
663 to maintain an adequate level of reliability.

664 This committee has heard from many voices over the
665 years, including FERC, DoE, power providers, and actual grid
666 operators about the very real reliability crisis our grid is
667 facing. It is critical that we maintain reliable and
668 efficient generation. Unfortunately, the previous
669 administration issued a number of rules targeting our most
670 reliable power plants without proper input or feedback from
671 our grid experts.

672 The Reliable Power Act sets clear accountability and

673 coordination standards to ensure that Federal regulations
674 support, rather than threaten, the strength and dependability
675 of our power system.

676 I am proud this bill has the support of the American
677 Public Power Association we -- which represents the nation's
678 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities and
679 serve 55 million people across the country.

680 And Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record
681 their letter of support for this bill.

682 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

683 [The information follows:]

684

685 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

686

687 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

688 I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to
689 support the AINS and the underlying bill. It is vitally
690 important we protect our constituents from dangerous Federal
691 regulations that threaten the electrical grid.

692 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and with that I yield back.

693 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back the
694 balance of his time. Is there further discussion on the
695 AINS?

696 The gentlelady from Colorado seeks recognition --

697 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the
698 AINS.

699 *Mr. Latta. Does the --

700 *Ms. DeGette. It is labeled AMD_HR3616_20.

701 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report.

702 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
703 a substitute to H.R. 3616, Reliable Power Act, offered by Ms.
704 DeGette. Add at the end the following.

705 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
706 amendment is dispensed with.

707 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

708

709 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

710

711 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
712 minutes in support of her amendment.

713 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

714 I have a number of issues with the Reliable Power Act.
715 It is not just that the bill is a thinly veiled effort to
716 prevent clean energy from coming online, but in addition this
717 Congress it is that it asks FERC to achieve the impossible
718 with increasingly less bandwidth in the agency.

719 And frankly, I have a vague sense of deja vu. As Mr.
720 Balderson mentioned, this subcommittee marked up a similar
721 piece of legislation last Congress with Mr. Duncan's GRID
722 Act. Similar to this bill, the GRID Act would have required
723 FERC to review other agencies' rules for their impact of the
724 bulk power sector. This mandate was concerning, as the
725 director of the Office of Electric Reliability at FERC
726 testified in no uncertain terms to this committee last
727 Congress that FERC did not have the capacity to review such
728 rules with their given capabilities at that time.

729 Well, that hasn't changed in the last two years. At our
730 hearing in April, two months ago, FERC's acting general
731 counsel stated, "FERC does not have the depth of extent of
732 computing resources to do the extensive analysis that might
733 be required as to some of those other agency's actions that
734 might be subject.'" This bill is asking FERC to do something
735 that it simply is incapable of doing.

736 I echo the same concern with the Reliable Power Act. In
737 fact, this bill goes as far as to mandate that FERC must look
738 into every covered agency action when a certain set of
739 criteria are met. If FERC didn't have the capacity last
740 Congress, it sure doesn't have the capacity this Congress,
741 given that FERC is set to lose almost 10 percent of its
742 workforce due to the Trump Administration's efforts to cut
743 the size of government.

744 And this is detailed in an E&E article. I ask unanimous
745 consent to enter it into the record.

746 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

747 [The information follows:]

748

749 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

750

751 *Ms. DeGette. Not only have 1,500 FERC employees opted
752 for deferred resignations, but the Administration offered
753 early retirements and implemented a government-wide hiring
754 freeze. So how can we expect an already overburdened agency
755 to take on even more mandated work at a time when the grid is
756 deemed to be in a state of generation inadequacy? So I
757 simply can't imagine a scenario where the grid is declaredly
758 having generation problems, FERC employees could simply drop
759 everything to review and evaluate every covered agency
760 action.

761 And it is not just a staffing capacity issue. It is one
762 of access to information and data. As witnesses from FERC
763 have said then and now, they simply don't have everything
764 they need.

765 So I would offer an amendment to fix this, which says
766 that -- it would add language to the bill stating it won't
767 take effect until FERC certifies that it has the capability
768 to adequately execute the bill's mandate. This would ensure
769 the agency, growing increasingly more under-staffed and
770 under-resourced, isn't asked to do more and more with less
771 and less. My amendment would let the agency actually
772 evaluate the rules and regulations with the level of scrutiny
773 needed to ensure quality desired outcomes.

774 All of us, all of us want to equip our agencies to
775 succeed in actualizing their mission and not set them up for

776 failure. This amendment would safeguard against asking for -
777 - to accomplish the infeasible. So this is a common-sense -
778 - a good governments -- good governance amendment. I urge
779 everybody to support it.

780 And also I will say, Mr. Chairman, I would love to work
781 with my friends on the other side of the aisle to bolster
782 FERC and to bolster it for its ability to do what it is
783 supposed to do now and the demands that AI and all these
784 other issues are going to place on our grid in the future.
785 With that I yield back.

786 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentlelady yields
787 back. Is there further discussion on the amendment?

788 The gentleman from Ohio's 12th district is recognized
789 for five minutes.

790 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you --

791 *Mr. Latta. What --

792 *Mr. Balderson. -- Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move
793 to strike the last word to speak in opposition to the
794 amendment.

795 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized to strike the
796 last word. Five minutes.

797 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you. H.R. 3616, the Reliable
798 Power Act, establishes Federal accountability for reliability
799 of our electric grid, and it places this accountability at
800 FERC, the agency most appropriate to assure other agency

801 regulations that affect electrical generation do not
802 negatively affect reliability.

803 FERC does not need to establish significant new modeling
804 or computing capacity under this bill. Based on the feedback
805 from FERC and NERC, the introduced bill provides that FERC
806 may consult with transmission organizations and NERC, the
807 North American Reliability Corporation, as it evaluates any
808 covered regulation.

809 Additionally, NERC has authority to collect necessary
810 information, and the transmission organizations have the
811 additional engineering capacity -- capability, excuse me --
812 to assess impacts on the generation mix, transmission, and
813 energy trends to provide perspective to FERC. In point of
814 fact, the FERC witnesses at the legislative hearing noted
815 that adding these consultations would be very beneficial, as
816 they would provide additional computing and modeling
817 resources.

818 This is an important bill for restoring accountability
819 over the reliability of our electrical system for the benefit
820 of the public and communities.

821 I urge a no vote on this amendment, and support the AINS
822 and the underlying bill.

823 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there
824 further discussion?

825 The gentlelady, the ranking member of the subcommittee,

826 is recognized for five minutes.

827 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to offer
828 my strong support to Representative DeGette's good amendment.

829 But colleagues, you will hear a big theme today. And
830 every time you hear affordability, reliability, we are trying
831 to do this and that, what they are really trying to do is
832 grease the skids for dirty energy, and try to let them jump
833 the line, and get out of jail free, and move it. And
834 everything that that does is make life more expensive for
835 folks back home. Ninety-five percent of all of the energy
836 that came onto the grid last year was clean, renewable
837 energy. It is cheaper than ever before. So there -- these
838 old power sources are trying to keep up, and trying to get
839 ahead. And all it does is it costs you more in the long run
840 by trying to give them a benefit.

841 And this amendment is smart. It would simply pause
842 implementation of the -- of this bill until FERC actually has
843 the professional staff to carry out the duties under this
844 bill. Testimony before this committee has been consistent
845 for years now. Mr. David Ortiz, then FERC's director of the
846 Office of Electric Reliability, testified before this
847 committee two years ago. Mr. Ortiz was very clear that FERC
848 couldn't execute on this bill because FERC does not have the
849 capacity to take on consistent oversight of other agencies'
850 decisions.

851 So Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent
852 to submit for the record the unedited transcript from that
853 hearing just so that it is crystal clear.

854 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

855 [The information follows:]

856

857 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

858

859 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, because two years later those
860 problems still persist, and they have likely gotten a lot
861 worse.

862 This bill does nothing to provide FERC with the
863 professional staff or the funding they need to implement the
864 bill.

865 Now, oversight of the grid's reliability is very
866 important, but it is more appropriate for the regional grid
867 system operators or the Department of Energy to do that.
868 That is where the expertise exists. Also I would note again
869 that the FERC commissioners already have the power to
870 intervene and comment on agency rulemaking dockets if they
871 think there could be reliability issues, as does NERC, any of
872 the grid operators, and any utility.

873 So the so-called Reliable Power Act uses a pretense of
874 reliability to actually sabotage clean energy and energy
875 storage because it, again, arbitrarily picks a winner. It
876 introduces bureaucratic delays and red tape that will raise
877 costs for working families across the country and increase
878 pollution.

879 The regional grid operators have the necessary expertise
880 and staffing to maintain reliability on their grid. Regional
881 operators know that there are cheaper, cleaner, and more
882 reliable energy sources available -- not just coal and gas.
883 But congressional Republicans are simply determined to take

884 us backwards. In fact, 1972 is calling and it wants its
885 energy policy back. You are so backward-looking. Meanwhile,
886 there are all sorts of modern grid solutions like storage,
887 demand response, and regional and interregional coordination
888 that can provide reliability at a lower price and with less
889 pollution.

890 While this bill gives FERC more responsibilities that it
891 cannot meet and does not want, you also have the Trump
892 Administration and House Republicans busy gutting the
893 agencies that are already working to ensure that we have a
894 reliable grid. The Energy and Commerce mark of the big ugly
895 bill, you actually took funds away from grid reliability,
896 modernization, and deployment.

897 And there are reports that more than 4,000 staffers at
898 the Department of Energy have accepted resignation offers.
899 This is in addition to the chainsaw attempts to institute
900 mass layoffs. These resignations include about half of the
901 grid deployment office, which is just -- which was just
902 established in 2022 to modernize and upgrade the grid. These
903 experts were working to enhance our grid's reliability and
904 resilience, developing new and improved infrastructure
905 priorities that many in this committee have claimed to
906 support.

907 But House Republicans have been complicit with the
908 Administration, with Elon Musk's chainsaw approach, illegally

909 withholding funds from grant recipients across the country
910 and refusing to allow our career experts to do their jobs.
911 Meanwhile, communities across the country want more flexible
912 -- want a more flexible and resilient grid. We need to get
913 back to that.

914 So I urge my colleagues to support Congresswoman
915 DeGette's amendment and then vote no on the underlying bill.
916 Thank you, and I yield back.

917 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
918 further discussions on the amendment?

919 Hearing none, if there is no further discussion, the
920 vote occurs on the amendment.

921 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

922 Those opposed, nay. All those opposed, nay.

923 The nays have it, and the amendment is not agreed to.
924 The gentlelady has requested a roll call, and the clerk will
925 call the roll.

926 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

927 *Mr. Weber. No.

928 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

929 Mr. Palmer?

930 [No response.]

931 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

932 *Mr. Allen. No.

933 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

934 Mr. Balderson?
935 *Mr. Balderson. No.
936 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
937 Mr. Pfluger?
938 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
939 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
940 Mrs. Harshbarger?
941 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
942 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
943 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
944 [No response.]
945 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
946 *Mr. James. No.
947 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
948 Mr. Bentz?
949 *Mr. Bentz. No.
950 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
951 Mr. Fry?
952 *Mr. Fry. No.
953 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
954 Ms. Lee?
955 [No response.]
956 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
957 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
958 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

959 Mr. Rulli?
960 *Mr. Rulli. No.
961 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
962 Mr. Evans?
963 *Mr. Evans. No.
964 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
965 Mr. Goldman?
966 *Mr. Goldman. No.
967 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
968 Mrs. Fedorchak?
969 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
970 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
971 Mr. Guthrie?
972 [No response.]
973 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie?
974 *The Chair. No.
975 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
976 Ms. Castor?
977 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
978 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
979 Mr. Peters?
980 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
981 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
982 Mr. Menendez?
983 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

984 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
985 Mr. Mullin?
986 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
987 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
988 Ms. McClellan?
989 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
990 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
991 Ms. DeGette?
992 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
993 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
994 Ms. Matsui?
995 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
996 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
997 Mr. Tonko?
998 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
999 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1000 Mr. Veasey?
1001 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1002 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1003 Ms. Schrier?
1004 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1005 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1006 Mrs. Fletcher?
1007 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1008 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

1009 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

1010 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

1011 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

1012 Mr. Auchincloss?

1013 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

1014 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

1015 Chairman Latta?

1016 *Mr. Latta. No.

1017 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

1018 *Mr. Latta. Are there other members wishing to be

1019 recognized on the vote?

1020 The gentleman from Alabama.

1021 *Mr. Palmer. How is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1022 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1023 *Mr. Latta. Delinquent.

1024 *Mr. Palmer. Nay.

1025 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

1026 *Mr. Pallone. Am I recorded?

1027 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone is not recorded.

1028 *Mr. Pallone. I vote aye.

1029 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1030 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be

1031 recognized on the roll call?

1032 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were --

1033 *Mr. Latta. Until -- just one second. I want to make

1034 sure we have everybody here that wanted to be -- okay, you
1035 got Gary.

1036 [Pause.]

1037 *Mr. Tonko. Come on now, come on now.

1038 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is recorded as no.

1039 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the tally.

1040 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 14
1041 ayes and 16 noes.

1042 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
1043 further amendments on the AINS?

1044 [Pause.]

1045 *Ms. Castor. We are going to voice vote.

1046 [Pause.]

1047 *Mr. Latta. Okay. Seeing that there are no further
1048 amendments, the question will then occur on the AINS.

1049 All those in favor will signify by saying aye. Those
1050 opposed, nay.

1051 The -- how -- got ahead of me there.

1052 All those in favor will say aye.

1053 All opposed, nay.

1054 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to. Are
1055 there any further amendments on the bill?

1056 Seeing no further amendments, the question now occurs on
1057 adopting H.R. 3616, as amended.

1058 All those in favor will signify by saying aye. Those

1059 opposed, no.

1060 *Ms. Castor. Yes, roll call.

1061 *Mr. Latta. And a roll call has been requested, and the
1062 clerk will call the roll.

1063 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

1064 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

1065 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

1066 Mr. Palmer?

1067 [No response.]

1068 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

1069 *Mr. Allen. Yes.

1070 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

1071 Mr. Balderson?

1072 *Mr. Balderson. Yes.

1073 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

1074 Mr. Pfluger?

1075 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

1076 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

1077 Mrs. Harshbarger?

1078 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

1079 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

1080 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

1081 [No response.]

1082 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

1083 *Mr. James. Aye.

1084 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1085 Mr. Bentz?
1086 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1087 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1088 Mr. Fry?
1089 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1090 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1091 Ms. Lee?
1092 [No response.]
1093 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
1094 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1095 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1096 Mr. Rulli?
1097 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1098 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1099 Mr. Evans?
1100 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1101 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1102 Mr. Goldman?
1103 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1104 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1105 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1106 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1107 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1108 Mr. Guthrie?

1109 *The Chair. Aye.
1110 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
1111 Ms. Castor?
1112 *Ms. Castor. No.
1113 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
1114 Mr. Peters?
1115 *Mr. Peters. No.
1116 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
1117 Mr. Menendez?
1118 *Mr. Menendez. No.
1119 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
1120 Mr. Mullin?
1121 *Mr. Mullin. No.
1122 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
1123 Ms. McClellan?
1124 *Ms. McClellan. No.
1125 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
1126 Ms. DeGette?
1127 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1128 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
1129 Ms. Matsui?
1130 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1131 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
1132 Mr. Tonko?
1133 *Mr. Tonko. No.

1134 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
1135 Mr. Veasey?
1136 *Mr. Veasey. No.
1137 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
1138 Ms. Schrier?
1139 *Ms. Schrier. No.
1140 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
1141 Mrs. Fletcher?
1142 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
1143 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
1144 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1145 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
1146 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
1147 Mr. Auchincloss?
1148 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
1149 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
1150 Mr. Pallone?
1151 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1152 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
1153 Chairman Latta?
1154 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1155 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.
1156 *Mr. Latta. Are there other members wishing to be
1157 recognized on the roll call?
1158 The gentleman from Alabama.

1159 *Mr. Palmer. How is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1160 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1161 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

1162 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

1163 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to
1164 answer the roll?

1165 Hearing none, the clerk will call -- will report the
1166 tally.

1167 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 16
1168 ayes and 14 noes.

1169 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much. The ayes have
1170 it, and the bill is adopted.

1171 The chair calls up H.R. 1047 and asks the clerk to
1172 report.

1173 *The Clerk. H.R. 1047, a bill to require the Federal
1174 Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection --

1175 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
1176 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1177 amendment at any point.

1178 So ordered.

1179 [The bill follows:]

1180

1181 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1182

1183 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
1184 bill?

1185 The gentleman from Ohio's 12th district is recognized
1186 for five minutes.

1187 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank
1188 you for holding this hearing and including the bill, GRID
1189 Power Act. I move to strike the last word, I apologize, and
1190 speak in support of this bill.

1191 This bill is critical to ensure our nation has the base
1192 load dispatchable power needed to meet historic demand growth
1193 and guarantee the lights turn on for our constituents when
1194 they turn the switch on. PJM, the largest grid operator in
1195 the nation, recently announced they expect to lose about 40
1196 gigawatts of generation by 2030. That is 21 percent of PJM's
1197 total capacity. According to PJM, new power resources are
1198 simply not coming online at an adequate enough pace to
1199 replace the risk of retiring resources.

1200 In fact, between 2022 and 2023, PJM saw over 11,000
1201 megawatts of generation deactivated and only 4,000 megawatts
1202 of new generation added to the grid. It doesn't take an
1203 electrical expert to know it is a major problem when retiring
1204 power plants are outpacing new generation, all while our
1205 nation has seen historic demand growth from electrification
1206 data centers and AI.

1207 We must do more to ensure that we can fuel the AI

1208 revolution, and we can start by addressing the broken
1209 interconnection process. Interconnection queues are a list
1210 maintained by electrical transmission system operators such
1211 as the independent system operators, the regional
1212 transmission organizations, or transmission providers that
1213 tracks all pending requests for new power generation
1214 facilities connected to the electrical grid.

1215 Right now, our nation's interconnection queues are
1216 buckling under their own weight. The growing backlog of
1217 projects is adding years to an already time-consuming
1218 process, and preventing shovel-ready projects from getting
1219 connected. In fact, according to the Lawrence Berkeley
1220 National Lab, almost 2,600 gigawatts of generation projects
1221 were sitting in the interconnection queues across the
1222 country. That is more than double the amount of existing
1223 generation currently on the grid. As a result of that
1224 backlog, the median wait time for projects to move through
1225 the interconnection queues has increased to five years. That
1226 is five years of waiting around before good projects can sign
1227 interconnection agreements, begin construction, and get
1228 connected to the grid.

1229 Given the demand growth in the power plant retirements
1230 we are seeing in my home state of Ohio and across the
1231 country, we can't wait five or more years. We can't afford
1232 to keep delaying critical projects from being built and

1233 connected to the grid. The GRID Power Act would give grid
1234 operators the authority to identify and expedite the
1235 consideration of essential projects that will protect the
1236 grid's reliability and provide the power needed to meet
1237 America's growing demand.

1238 This bill requires that FERC -- to develop rules that
1239 authorize grid operators, including transmission operators,
1240 regional transmission organizations, and independent system
1241 operators, to fast track critical generation that ensures
1242 greater reliability and meet growing power demands by
1243 allowing them to bypass the years-long wait in their
1244 interconnection queue. The bill empowers grid operators to
1245 accelerate projects that provide new dispatchable power and
1246 improve grid reliability and resource adequacy; addresses
1247 power shortages caused by retiring offline dispatchable
1248 power; and support increased power demand.

1249 The GRID Power Act promotes transparency by requiring
1250 the grid operators to provide a process for public comment
1251 and stakeholder engagement before submitting proposals to
1252 FERC. Additionally, the bill requires operators to provide
1253 regular reporting on the state of the grid reliability,
1254 including actions taken under the bill to FERC. Lastly, the
1255 bill requires FERC to review and, if necessary, update
1256 regulations issued under the bill to ensure they remain
1257 effective and relevant to evolving challenges to grid

1258 reliability and resiliency.

1259 I ask that all of my colleagues support this common-
1260 sense bill that gives our grid operators the tools they need
1261 to get new generation online and connected to the grid at the
1262 time of historic demand growth.

1263 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

1264 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Are
1265 there any other members wishing to give remarks on the bill?

1266 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment.

1267 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose -- does the gentlelady
1268 have the amendment at the desk?

1269 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman, it is Castor amendment H.R.
1270 1047_2.

1271 *Mr. Latta. And the clerk will report the amendment.

1272 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1047, offered by Ms.
1273 Castor. Page 5, line 18, strike --

1274 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
1275 amendment is dispensed with.

1276 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

1277

1278 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1279

1280 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
1281 minutes for support of her amendment.

1282 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1283 Colleagues, the GRID Power Act is unnecessary. It
1284 allows FERC to use discriminatory practices to pick winners
1285 and losers. It does nothing to ensure a reliable grid.

1286 We have seen already this year as well that FERC has the
1287 power to approve changes to the -- to interconnection queues,
1288 including prioritization of certain resources when it deems
1289 necessary. Now, we have got to do a whole lot more
1290 streamlining on interconnection queues, but you cannot ignore
1291 the fact that just in February FERC allowed PJM to prioritize
1292 adding resources like gas-fired power plants to its grid
1293 while keeping renewable energy projects in its long
1294 interconnection queue. Commissioners made it clear that this
1295 is only a one-time emergency measure, not a substitute for a
1296 well-functioning interconnection process.

1297 In May FERC rejected MISO's proposal to fast-track new
1298 generation interconnections because it was a poorly designed
1299 plan that placed insufficient limits on the number of
1300 projects that could be fast-tracked, and prioritized
1301 unrelated attributes.

1302 These are the type of complex decisions that we want a
1303 robust and independent FERC fully staffed with professional
1304 experts to make in partnership with regional grid operators.

1305 Clearly, FERC already has the necessary authority so long as
1306 it justifies its approval with evidence that such an approach
1307 is both just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory.

1308 The only thing this bill allows is letting FERC approve
1309 discriminatory practices, pick winners and losers among
1310 resources, and that is a recipe for higher costs for
1311 consumers. One of FERC's core responsibilities is to keep
1312 prices affordable, a mission that is made possible by strong
1313 competition among energy generators. This resource-neutral
1314 access makes it possible for any project with real investment
1315 and progress towards construction to move forward. But this
1316 bill hamstringing that neutrality, which will stifle American
1317 innovation and entrepreneurship.

1318 This bill -- and frankly, again, this entire markup, all
1319 of this package of bills -- fails to understand that
1320 reliability isn't a description of an individual generator,
1321 but rather is an attribute that applies to the entire system.
1322 It is not a given that additional dispatchable resources aid
1323 reliability. You have to rely on a mix of generation,
1324 different fuels and wires to make sure everyone can get the
1325 power they need all of the time.

1326 So while this bill pushes gas-fired plants to the front
1327 of the line, unfairly making it more expensive, it does
1328 nothing to address the real constraints facing gas plants.
1329 It is well documented that supply chain constraints for gas

1330 turbines mean that those resources will not come online until
1331 2030.

1332 The cost of these gas plants also -- rising rapidly,
1333 costs that will be passed through to American families and
1334 companies. Increased costs and delays for these gas plants
1335 also risk pushing low-cost renewables and batteries out of
1336 the queue, further increasing costs.

1337 And we are not even getting into the fact that they are
1338 exacerbating the costs -- the rising cost of climate. My
1339 folks, my neighbors back home, are rebuilding from hurricanes
1340 because the Gulf waters last year were so incredibly hot.
1341 You remember Milton went from a category 1 to category 5 in,
1342 like, 15 hours? Helene flooded out thousands and thousands
1343 of my neighbors. Insurance rates are all just off the
1344 charts. We are not even getting into that.

1345 If we were serious about an approach that brings new
1346 energy online quickly to meet demand and lower prices, we
1347 would be discussing the Expediting Generator Interconnection
1348 Procedures Act in today's markup, which was already included
1349 in our last legislative hearing.

1350 In addition, Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a
1351 letter from the NRDC into the record this -- where they write
1352 these bills arbitrarily advantage fossil fuel generation,
1353 even when it is not the most reliable or affordable option,
1354 exacerbate climate change, and cause electric bills to

1355 skyrocket. On this bill in particular they say this is an
1356 effort to arbitrarily tip the cards in favor of the fossil
1357 fuel industry, and flies in the face of a long-held standard
1358 of open access to transmission system. It also distracts
1359 from fixing the real problems: the slow speed of
1360 interconnection queues which are delaying all types of
1361 resources from coming online more quickly.

1362 And with that, I will offer that for the record, and
1363 encourage adoption of this amendment, and yield back the
1364 balance of my time.

1365 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back, and without
1366 objection, so ordered.

1367 [The information follows:]

1368

1369 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1370

1371 *Mr. Latta. Is there anyone else wishing to be
1372 recognized on the amendment?

1373 The gentleman from Ohio's 12th district, for what
1374 purpose do you wish to be recognized?

1375 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1376 strike the last word and speak against the amendment.

1377 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
1378 minutes to speak against the amendment.

1379 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I oppose the
1380 amendment, as it is simply unnecessary.

1381 The underlying bill does not amend the Federal Power Act
1382 in any way to restrict FERC's authority under sections 205 or
1383 206, nor would it limit or prohibit FERC from denying a
1384 proposal if it finds the proposal to be unjust or
1385 unreasonable, or if it is unduly discriminatory or
1386 preferential.

1387 The Federal Power Act requires that all rates, terms,
1388 and conditions of FERC's jurisdictional services and charges,
1389 as well as all rules and regulations affecting such rates,
1390 terms, and conditions, be filed with FERC for approval and be
1391 deemed just and reasonable by the Commission prior to
1392 becoming effective.

1393 Under section 205, utilities have the legal burden of
1394 demonstrating that the proposal is just and reasonable. In a
1395 section 206 filing the complainant must show that the

1396 document currently on file is unjust and unreasonable. FERC
1397 can also set a new rate, term, or condition by initiating a
1398 section 206 proceeding on its own. The GRID Power Act
1399 clearly states on page 5, line 23, that within 60 days of
1400 receiving a proposal FERC shall review the proposal and
1401 approve or deny the proposal. Nothing in the bill requires
1402 FERC to approve a proposal.

1403 Additionally, the bill promotes transparency by
1404 requiring those making the request to FERC to provide a
1405 process for public comment and stakeholder engagement, and
1406 provide regular reporting to the Commission on any actions
1407 taken pursuant to this Act.

1408 I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I
1409 yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1410 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back the balance of
1411 his time. Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

1412 Seeing none, you want a roll call.

1413 *Ms. Castor. Roll call.

1414 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady requests a roll call vote.
1415 And all those in favor shall signify by saying aye, those
1416 opposed nay, and the clerk will call the roll.

1417 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

1418 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

1419 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

1420 Mr. Palmer?

1421 [No response.]

1422 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

1423 *Mr. Allen. Yes.

1424 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

1425 Mr. Balderson?

1426 *Mr. Balderson. No.

1427 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

1428 [Pause.]

1429 [Laughter.]

1430 *Ms. Castor. Obviously, you --

1431 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry?

1432 *Ms. Castor. Yes, thanks.

1433 *Mr. Weber. I am getting flack. You know that, right?

1434 *Mr. Latta. Okay.

1435 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?

1436 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

1437 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

1438 Mrs. Harshbarger?

1439 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

1440 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

1441 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

1442 [No response.]

1443 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

1444 *Mr. James. No.

1445 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

1446 Mr. Bentz?
1447 *Mr. Bentz. No.
1448 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
1449 Mr. Fry?
1450 *Mr. Fry. No.
1451 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
1452 Ms. Lee?
1453 [No response.]
1454 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
1455 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
1456 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
1457 Mr. Rulli?
1458 *Mr. Rulli. No.
1459 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
1460 Mr. Evans?
1461 *Mr. Evans. No.
1462 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
1463 Mr. Goldman?
1464 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1465 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1466 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1467 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1468 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1469 Mr. Guthrie?
1470 *The Chair. No.

1471 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
1472 Ms. Castor?
1473 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
1474 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1475 Mr. Peters?
1476 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1477 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1478 Mr. Menendez?
1479 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1480 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1481 Mr. Mullin?
1482 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1483 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1484 Ms. McClellan?
1485 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1486 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1487 Ms. DeGette?
1488 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1489 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1490 Ms. Matsui?
1491 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1492 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1493 Mr. Tonko?
1494 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1495 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

1496 Mr. Veasey?

1497 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

1498 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

1499 Ms. Schrier?

1500 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1501 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

1502 Mrs. Fletcher?

1503 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1504 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

1505 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

1506 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

1507 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

1508 Mr. Auchincloss?

1509 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

1510 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

1511 Mr. Pallone?

1512 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1513 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1514 Chairman Latta?

1515 *Mr. Latta. No.

1516 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

1517 *Mr. Latta. Are there members wishing to be recognized

1518 on the amendment, either on --

1519 *Mr. Allen. How is Allen recorded?

1520 *The Clerk. Allen is recorded as aye.

1521 *Mr. Allen. Yes, Allen is a no.

1522 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is off aye and on no.

1523 *Mr. Weber. How was Weber wrongly recorded?

1524 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is recorded as aye.

1525 *Mr. Weber. Weber is a no.

1526 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is off aye and on no.

1527 *Mr. Latta. Do we have any other members wishing to be

1528 recognized on the roll?

1529 The clerk will take the roll and report.

1530 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 14

1531 ayes and 15 noes.

1532 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The amendment is not agreed to.

1533 Are there further amendments on the bill?

1534 *Ms. Castor. No further amendments.

1535 *Mr. Latta. There are no further amendments on the

1536 bill, and the question now occurs on adopting H.R. 1047.

1537 All those in favor say aye.

1538 Those opposed, no.

1539 The ayes have it, and --

1540 *Ms. Castor. We request a vote.

1541 *Mr. Latta. -- the gentlelady has requested a roll call

1542 vote, and the clerk will take the roll.

1543 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

1544 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

1545 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

1546 Mr. Palmer?
1547 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1548 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1549 Mr. Allen?
1550 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
1551 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
1552 Mr. Balderson?
1553 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1554 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1555 Mr. Pfluger?
1556 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1557 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1558 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1559 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1560 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1561 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1562 [No response.]
1563 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1564 *Mr. James. Aye.
1565 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1566 Mr. Bentz?
1567 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1568 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1569 Mr. Fry?
1570 *Mr. Fry. Aye.

1571 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1572 Ms. Lee?
1573 [No response.]
1574 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
1575 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1576 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1577 Mr. Rulli?
1578 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1579 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1580 Mr. Evans?
1581 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1582 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1583 Mr. Goldman?
1584 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1585 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1586 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1587 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1588 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1589 Mr. Guthrie?
1590 *The Chair. Aye.
1591 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
1592 Ms. Castor?
1593 *Ms. Castor. No.
1594 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
1595 Mr. Peters?

1596 *Mr. Peters. No.
1597 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
1598 Mr. Menendez?
1599 *Mr. Menendez. No.
1600 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
1601 Mr. Mullin?
1602 *Mr. Mullin. No.
1603 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
1604 Ms. McClellan?
1605 *Ms. McClellan. No.
1606 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
1607 Ms. DeGette?
1608 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1609 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
1610 Ms. Matsui?
1611 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1612 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
1613 Mr. Tonko?
1614 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1615 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
1616 Mr. Veasey?
1617 *Mr. Veasey. No.
1618 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
1619 Ms. Schrier?
1620 *Ms. Schrier. No.

1621 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
1622 Mrs. Fletcher?
1623 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
1624 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
1625 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1626 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
1627 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
1628 Mr. Auchincloss?
1629 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
1630 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
1631 Mr. Pallone?
1632 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1633 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
1634 Chairman Latta?
1635 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1636 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.
1637 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be
1638 recorded?
1639 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1640 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1641 *Mr. Latta. Seeing no others, the clerk will report the
1642 roll.
1643 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 16
1644 ayes and 14 noes.
1645 *Mr. Latta. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

1646 The chair calls up H.R. 3632, and asks the clerk to
1647 report.

1648 *The Clerk. H.R. 3632, a bill to amend the Federal
1649 Power Act to adjust the requirements for orders, rules, and
1650 regulations --

1651 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
1652 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1653 amendment at any point.

1654 So ordered.

1655 [The bill follows:]

1656

1657 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1658

1659 *Mr. Latta. And the chair recognizes himself for five
1660 minutes in support of the bill.

1661 I strongly support the Power Plant Reliability Act
1662 introduced by our colleague from Virginia's 9th district.
1663 This bill would enhance existing authorities under the
1664 Federal Power Act to ensure premature retirements are not
1665 unnecessarily undermining the reliability of our electric
1666 grid.

1667 As part of that process, orders issued pursuant to this
1668 legislation will waive excessive environmental regulations
1669 mirroring language in section 202© of the Federal Power Act
1670 to provide needed flexibility for plant owners to continue
1671 operating the facility in a cost-effective manner.

1672 In addition, this bill would require plants to provide a
1673 five-year advance notice of their plans to retire to help
1674 states and RTOs improve long-term planning for resource
1675 adequacy of the bulk power system. By requiring this five-
1676 year advance notice, we can ensure that states and grid
1677 operators can responsibly manage their respective systems to
1678 keep the lights on for hard-working households.

1679 Importantly, this bill allows for flexibility of the
1680 five-year advance notice of retirements in the event of an
1681 emergency, disaster, or other similar events that leave the
1682 plant inoperable.

1683 The Energy Subcommittee has held several hearings during

1684 the 119th Congress to understand the complexities of our
1685 ongoing reliability crisis. We continue to hear from grid
1686 operators, engineers, and utilities of all kinds about the
1687 impact that premature retirements are having on the bulk
1688 power system. Unfortunately, many times it is the policy
1689 decisions of the government, both state and Federal, that are
1690 forcing the closure of baseload retirements and seeking to
1691 replace generation with less reliable sources.

1692 While renewable energy resources have a role to play in
1693 a diverse energy mix, not all electrons can be treated the
1694 same. Baseload and dispatchable energy that comes from the
1695 natural coal -- pardon me, natural gas, coal, nuclear, and
1696 hydropower provide the essential reliability service our grid
1697 relies on, and which inadvertent -- inverter-based resources
1698 inherently do not possess. The excessive subsidizing of
1699 technologies like wind and solar have created a concerning
1700 imbalance in our resource mix that is making it more
1701 difficult for states and grid operators to keep the lights
1702 on.

1703 With this bill we will provide FERC with an additional
1704 tool in the reliability toolbox to ensure that all regions of
1705 the country have the resources they need to keep the lights
1706 on. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I thank
1707 our colleague from colleague for Virginia's 9th district for
1708 leading on this important legislation.

1709 And I yield back the balance of my time. And does
1710 anybody else seek to be recognized on the bill?

1711 [Pause.]

1712 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from --

1713 *Mr. Peters. I move to strike the last word.

1714 *Mr. Latta. -- California, he moves to strike the last
1715 word. The gentleman is recognized for five minutes on -- to
1716 strike the last word.

1717 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1718 As I said at the time we had a hearing on these bills, I
1719 am happy that the majority is interested in meeting energy
1720 demand, securing the electric grid, and reducing costs for
1721 Americans. The committee needs to finally have a robust,
1722 bipartisan debate about the future of our energy system, from
1723 energy storage to pipelines to transmission to energy
1724 efficiency.

1725 Every single witness before this committee has been
1726 clear: we need more of everything, whether it is
1727 transmission, pipelines, solar, wind, natural gas. Only a
1728 true all-of-the-above energy strategy will help keep the
1729 lights on as we transition our energy system to the 21st
1730 century. That is why it is so unfortunate that the bills we
1731 are discussing today are far too focused more on returning to
1732 the past instead of bringing us into the future.

1733 Instead of focusing on how to develop a long-term and

1734 holistic energy strategy, which has been proven to decrease
1735 costs and improve reliability for everyone, we are talking
1736 about short-term fixes that will increase costs, steamroll
1737 straight regulators, and negatively affect reliability in the
1738 long run. For example, the Power Plant Reliability Act would
1739 give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the power to
1740 force older, expensive plants to stay open far beyond their
1741 planned retirement date, overruling the decisions of all
1742 other local, state, and Federal officials.

1743 Make no mistake, these plants are closing because the
1744 market and the experts have dictated that they should close.
1745 Utilities, states, and regions are not making investment
1746 decisions based on whether the President believes in climate
1747 change or not. They are making investment decisions based on
1748 what is best for customers, reliability, and the future of
1749 their own system. If there are reliability issues caused by
1750 the retirement of these plants, we should address that by
1751 building newer, more efficient generation and by building a
1752 better grid to transfer power from where it is abundant to
1753 where it is needed. I don't think it is fair to ask my
1754 constituents to pay for an old coal plant to stay online when
1755 the market has dictated we don't need it to.

1756 If a utility, state, or region is caught flat footed by
1757 the retirement of old and expensive generation, that is a
1758 planning and governance failure that needs to be addressed

1759 instead of propped up by Congress. Why should we use
1760 ratepayer dollars just to kick the can down the road, versus
1761 investing in new generation and new grid build-out driven by
1762 new American jobs and new American manufacturing?

1763 My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are
1764 obsessed with blaming our reliability challenges on the
1765 retirement of old, expensive, and outdated coal generation,
1766 rather than our inability to build the new infrastructure we
1767 need when and where we need it. We should not let short-
1768 sighted policies that increase costs for customers and impair
1769 reliability of the grid in the long run. I refuse to support
1770 those.

1771 The Power Plant Reliability Act should not take effect
1772 until the Secretary of Energy certifies in writing that
1773 American families will not pay higher energy bills due to
1774 being forced to pay for outdated coal plants to stay online.
1775 My amendment would do just that.

1776 All of us have stressed how we don't -- how we want to
1777 work in a bipartisan way to make America more energy
1778 dominant. We need to focus on durable, common-sense, and
1779 all-of-the-above policies that provide certainty for industry
1780 and consumers, and we should be having hearings on bipartisan
1781 bills that improve planning, help us build more transmission
1782 and generation, and expand the tools in our tool belt to help
1783 us meet this challenge. My bills that we are discussing

1784 today -- the bills that we are discussing today do not help
1785 us do that, and for the most part are not the best use of our
1786 valuable time.

1787 My Speed and Reliability Act, for instance, is
1788 bipartisan, costs no money, creates no new programs, and
1789 streamlines the siting and permitting process for national
1790 interest transmission, which everyone agrees we need, by five
1791 years. I still don't understand why we can't have a hearing
1792 on a bill like that.

1793 I urge support of my amendment and I yield back.

1794 *Mr. Latta. Are there others wishing to --

1795 *Ms. Castor. Just procedurally.

1796 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry, you --

1797 *Mr. Peters. You did everything but call my amendment.

1798 *Mr. Latta. Well, let me ask --

1799 *Mr. Peters. I have an amendment at the desk that I
1800 just spoke to.

1801 *Mr. Latta. Okay. Well, let me ask this because I was
1802 wondering if you were calling an amendment or you were
1803 speaking on the bill. Let me ask this question. Are there
1804 others who wish to speak on the bill on the Republican side?

1805 On the Democrat side the gentleman from California has
1806 an amendment, I believe, at the desk. An amendment -- do you
1807 have --

1808 *Mr. Peters. Yes, I have an amendment at the desk. It

1809 is AMD-PPRECT_36.

1810 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

1811 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3632, offered by Mr.
1812 Peters. Add at the end the following.

1813 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
1814 amendment is dispensed with.

1815 [The amendment of Mr. Peters follows:]

1816

1817 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1818

1819 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman is recognized for five
1820 minutes in support of his amendment.

1821 *Mr. Peters. I spoke to my amendment, Mr. Chairman, I
1822 yield back.

1823 [Pause.]

1824 *Voice. He is yielding because he --

1825 *Mr. Latta. My understanding is the gentleman yields
1826 back since he incorporated in his opening -- his statement.
1827 Are those -- anyone wishing to speak on the amendment?

1828 And I will speak on the amendment. I rise in strong
1829 opposition to this amendment which would require the
1830 Secretary of Energy to certify that actions taken under this
1831 legislation would not unduly increase costs on consumers.
1832 This amendment is unnecessary and a distraction to the
1833 underlying bill and the policy concerns it seeks to address.

1834 This committee has held several hearings with grid
1835 operators, engineers, and energy industry experts, and were
1836 told that state policy policies that seek to drive out
1837 baseload fossil generating units are a key reason for our
1838 ongoing reliability crisis. The Power Plant Reliability Act
1839 would seek to address this issue by enhancing an existing
1840 authority under the Federal Power Act to maintain operation
1841 of a generating unit or to build new transmission lines in
1842 the event of an electricity supply shortfall.

1843 When the lights go out, people's lives are put at stake

1844 and the job-creating industries are undermined. It is our
1845 hope that this authority would not be utilized, and that we
1846 can allow entrepreneurs and utilities to build and operate
1847 cost effective and reliable generating units. Unfortunately,
1848 actions taken by states and the previous administration
1849 deliberately sought to drive out reliable baseload generating
1850 units without replacing the resources that meet the needs of
1851 our power sector.

1852 As NERC has recently stated, over the next four years
1853 our nation is expected to lose 52 gigawatts of baseload
1854 power. At the same time, energy demands from data centers
1855 and manufacturing facilities are skyrocketing. This
1856 amendment would layer on additional burdensome requirements
1857 that would already be considered by FERC when issuing an
1858 order under section 207. When issuing orders under section
1859 207, FERC must already consider how rates are just and
1860 reasonable for the ratepayer.

1861 And I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I
1862 yield back.

1863 The gentlelady from Virginia, for what does she seek
1864 recognition?

1865 *Ms. McClellan. Speaking to the amendment.

1866 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
1867 minutes.

1868 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1869 I thought it was worth noting, since we are addressing
1870 an amendment to the gentleman from Virginia's 9th district,
1871 which covers southwest Virginia, that in today's article, an
1872 article in today's Cardinal News, which is an independent,
1873 non-profit, non-partisan news site that focuses solely on
1874 southwest and southside Virginia, there is a very relevant
1875 article that questions why Congress is stifling the growth of
1876 the one form of energy that is the quickest to get up and
1877 running and accounted for 81 percent of the new energy added
1878 to the grid last year. And that, of course, is solar, which
1879 the big, beautiful bill is stifling by doing away with the
1880 tax credits.

1881 And in Virginia, as a result of that, Ben Norris, the --
1882 of the Solar Industry Association told our Commission on
1883 Electric Utility Regulation that the House bill is going to
1884 kill the development of enough solar to power this entire
1885 State of Pennsylvania.

1886 Now, this same article then goes through a comparison of
1887 development timelines for all of the different types of
1888 energy, from natural gas to nuclear, coal, even wind, and
1889 makes very clear that solar is the fastest.

1890 But here is something that particularly caught my eye on
1891 coal. Even Appalachian Power, a coal-heavy utility whose
1892 service area includes coal country and the gentleman from the
1893 9th district's district, has said it has no interest in

1894 burning more coal because coal is more expensive than other
1895 fuels. The market has already decided, not regulators. The
1896 market has already decided no one should be building new coal
1897 plants, and existing coal plants should be retired because
1898 they are too expensive compared to other forms of energy to
1899 be used to generate electricity.

1900 And so I think that the -- this amendment that would
1901 require an analysis of whether the continuation of coal-based
1902 power plants or any other outdated, uneconomic power plants
1903 would ultimately continue to artificially increase utility
1904 bills -- because the one thing we can be guaranteed is that
1905 the cost to generate -- to build a power plant and to
1906 generate electricity using it is going to be passed to
1907 customers. Our state constitutions mandate that our
1908 utilities be able to recover their costs.

1909 And so if we are focused on lowering utility costs while
1910 also getting more electricity online, let's be realistic
1911 about it and not artificially prop up, you know, sources that
1912 the market has already said we need to move away from because
1913 they are not only terrible for our environment -- which on
1914 World Environment Day I feel like I should point out -- but
1915 are uneconomic and add more costs in the long run.

1916 And with that --

1917 *Ms. Castor. Would you -- the gentlewoman yield?

1918 *Ms. McClellan. I yield.

1919 *Ms. Castor. Thank you. I want to thank the
1920 gentlewoman from Virginia and the gentleman from California
1921 for really keeping an eye on electric bills for American
1922 families and business owners, because what this package of
1923 bills that the GOP has brought will do is it will raise
1924 electricity costs on hard-working Americans because it is all
1925 -- it gives that -- it greases the skids for dirtier, more
1926 expensive power sources to come onto the grid with the hope
1927 of crowding out the cleaner, cheaper energy.

1928 And the gentleman is -- you reminded me of all the
1929 testimony that we have heard in this committee the first few
1930 months of the year with the AI data centers, the huge new
1931 power generation that they needed. And to a person, from all
1932 sectors, as Mrs. Fletcher referenced earlier in her remarks,
1933 everyone has said bring this power onto the grid. We have
1934 this clean, cleaner, cheaper power that is supposed to come
1935 onto the grid, but I know that that is a threat to the bottom
1936 line of the dirty, polluting power generators. They don't
1937 like it. So they are using every tool at their disposal to
1938 try to kneecap cleaner, cheaper energy. And all that will do
1939 will raise electricity bills for all Americans, and they need
1940 to be awake to it.

1941 So I appreciate you bringing this up, and we should pass
1942 Mr. Peters's strong amendment.

1943 I yield back.

1944 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady's time has expired. Are
1945 there any others wishing to be recognized on the amendment?

1946 I am sorry? The gentlelady is recognized from North
1947 Dakota.

1948 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you --

1949 *Mr. Latta. Five minutes.

1950 *Mrs. Fedorchak. -- Chairman. I have to respond to a
1951 few of the comments that have been made by my colleagues on
1952 the other side.

1953 First of all, there seems to be a complete denial of the
1954 -- what has happened over the course of the last 10 years on
1955 the energy transition as it relates to costs. Costs are
1956 rising today. Costs in the states that have transitioned the
1957 fastest to the renewables have risen the most. We have to
1958 pay for the new stuff and the old stuff to back it up. So
1959 this is -- it is a fallacy that we are, by what we are doing,
1960 driving costs up.

1961 Secondly, it is durable. These are durable and common-
1962 sense solutions. It is durable and common sense to recognize
1963 today two-thirds of the grid is at risk of not having enough
1964 power to meet demand. Today in America, two-thirds of the
1965 country. We need more power, so it is very durable and
1966 reasonable and common sense to keep the stuff that we have
1967 until we have the replacement things online. That is common
1968 sense.

1969 We also need to recognize that demand is increasing
1970 substantially. We need more power as fast as we can get it.
1971 So shutting things down is not the right approach right now.
1972 The new technologies are still being developed. They aren't
1973 ready for prime time to cover all the needs on the grid. We
1974 need solutions today. We need to recognize that NERC and the
1975 grid operators are begging for dispatchable power. Yes, they
1976 want all power, but they are begging for dispatchable power.
1977 MISO has been saying we need more gas, we need more gas, we
1978 need more gas for many years.

1979 And we need to recognize that we -- by eliminating
1980 subsidies, we are not stifling anything. You can still
1981 invest in these resources. Just do them without the tax
1982 credits so there is a fair market, so there is fair market
1983 signals being sent to all the resources, and that the
1984 investment can go where it is needed the most.

1985 So there is just -- we have got to be talking about some
1986 of these truthful, basic scientific things as it relates to
1987 the grid. Thank you.

1988 I yield back.

1989 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
1990 further discussion?

1991 The gentleman from New Jersey, for what purpose does he
1992 seek recognition?

1993 *Mr. Menendez. To speak on the amendment.

1994 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
1995 minutes to strike the last word.

1996 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman.

1997 This amendment is about affordability. So a vote for it
1998 is supporting all of our constituents and the affordability
1999 challenges that they have. A vote against this amendment is
2000 making their lives harder. I just want to quote from the
2001 amendment. It says that the underlying bill will not take
2002 effect until it is certified that the Act and its amendments
2003 will not expose American families to the risk of higher power
2004 bills by paying for outdated, uneconomic coal-fired power
2005 plants to stay online longer.

2006 So this is simply about ensuring, before the bill
2007 becomes law, becomes -- takes effect that all of our
2008 constituents, both Republicans and Democrats -- constituents
2009 will not be paying higher prices. So this is simply about
2010 affordability. And voting against it is saying to your
2011 constituents that you are not concerned about their utility
2012 costs.

2013 Two, I have a question for the Republican Party and its
2014 view on state rights, because it seems that the party of
2015 states' rights has consistently taken actions this Congress
2016 to force their agenda on individual states. That is what the
2017 entirety of today is going to be about, is about forcing the
2018 Federal Government on states, despite what states believe is

2019 best for their environments, for their constituents. In
2020 fact, if some of my Republican colleagues had actually read
2021 the -- what they deem the big, beautiful bill, they would
2022 have seen that with respect to AI we were taking away states'
2023 rights. And a Republican who had voted for it said that, if
2024 she had read the bill, she would have opposed it because it
2025 is a violation of state rights. She also said that we should
2026 be reducing Federal power and preserving state power.

2027 So I just don't know which way it is, because it seems
2028 when there is an issue that is important to the Republican
2029 Party, states' rights don't matter. And when it is an issue
2030 that is important to constituents across the country, they
2031 have a different tune. And so this inconsistency is
2032 problematic because it is an issue-by-issue approach that the
2033 Republican Party has at the expense of the American people
2034 and at the expense of people that live in states who have
2035 concerns about what some of these projects would do to their
2036 health and well-being. So it is wildly inconsistent.

2037 The last thing I would say with respect to fairness,
2038 which my last colleague had talked about, this is putting the
2039 thumb on the scale for dirty energy producers. And we are
2040 also penalizing those who are trying to implement clean
2041 energy throughout the country. So this is -- the Republican
2042 Party cannot talk about fairness when you are putting the
2043 thumb on the scale for dirty energy and you are penalizing

2044 those that want clean energy so we can have a cleaner
2045 environment for all Americans. So that is why this is an
2046 easy yes vote. If you vote no, then I look forward to you to
2047 finally having those town halls and telling your constituents
2048 why you did so.

2049 I yield back.

2050 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2051 further discussion?

2052 Hearing none, the vote occurs on the amendment. All
2053 those in favor shall signify by saying aye, and those opposed
2054 nay.

2055 *Ms. Castor. We will have a roll call.

2056 *Mr. Latta. And the roll call has been requested, and
2057 the clerk will take the roll.

2058 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

2059 *Mr. Weber. No.

2060 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

2061 Mr. Palmer?

2062 [No response.]

2063 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2064 *Mr. Allen. No.

2065 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2066 Mr. Balderson?

2067 *Mr. Balderson. No.

2068 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

2069 Mr. Pfluger?
2070 [No response.]
2071 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
2072 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
2073 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
2074 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
2075 [No response.]
2076 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
2077 [No response.]
2078 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
2079 *Mr. Bentz. No.
2080 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
2081 Mr. Fry?
2082 [No response.]
2083 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
2084 [No response.]
2085 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
2086 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
2087 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
2088 Mr. Rulli?
2089 *Mr. Rulli. No.
2090 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
2091 Mr. Evans?
2092 *Mr. Evans. No.
2093 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

2094 Mr. Goldman?
2095 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2096 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2097 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2098 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2099 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2100 Mr. Guthrie?
2101 *The Chair. No.
2102 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2103 Ms. Castor?
2104 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
2105 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2106 Mr. Peters?
2107 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2108 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2109 Mr. Menendez?
2110 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2111 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2112 Mr. Mullin?
2113 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2114 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2115 Ms. McClellan?
2116 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2117 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2118 Ms. DeGette?

2119 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2120 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2121 Ms. Matsui?
2122 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2123 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2124 Mr. Tonko?
2125 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2126 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2127 Mr. Veasey?
2128 [No response.]
2129 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
2130 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2131 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2132 Mrs. Fletcher?
2133 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2134 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2135 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2136 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
2137 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
2138 Mr. Auchincloss?
2139 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
2140 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
2141 Mr. Pallone?
2142 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2143 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2144 Chairman Latta?

2145 *Mr. Latta. No.

2146 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

2147 *Mr. Latta. Are there members wishing to answer the

2148 roll?

2149 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?

2150 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

2151 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

2152 Mr. Fry?

2153 *Mr. Fry. No.

2154 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

2155 *Mr. James. How is James recorded?

2156 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.

2157 *Mr. James. No.

2158 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

2159 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Veasey?

2160 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

2161 *Mr. Veasey. How is Veasey recorded?

2162 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

2163 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

2164 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

2165 *Mr. Latta. How is Mr. Langworthy reported?

2166 *The Clerk. Sorry, Mr. Langworthy is reported as no.

2167 *Mr. Latta. I thank you.

2168 Any other members?

2169 Hearing none, the clerk will take the roll.

2170 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 14
2171 ayes and 15 noes.

2172 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
2173 further amendments?

2174 *Ms. Castor. No further amendments.

2175 *Mr. Latta. If there are no further amendments, the
2176 question now occurs on adopting H.R. 3632.

2177 All those in favor will signify by saying aye. Those
2178 opposed, no.

2179 *Ms. Castor. I request a roll --

2180 *Mr. Latta. And the roll call has been requested. The
2181 clerk will call the roll.

2182 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

2183 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

2184 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

2185 Mr. Palmer?

2186 [No response.]

2187 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2188 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

2189 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

2190 Mr. Balderson?

2191 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

2192 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

2193 Mr. Pfluger?

2194 [No response.]

2195 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

2196 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2197 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

2198 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

2199 [No response.]

2200 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

2201 *Mr. James. Aye.

2202 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

2203 Mr. Bentz?

2204 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

2205 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

2206 Mr. Fry?

2207 *Mr. Fry. Aye.

2208 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.

2209 Ms. Lee?

2210 [No response.]

2211 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

2212 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

2213 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

2214 Mr. Rulli?

2215 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

2216 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

2217 Mr. Evans?

2218 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

2219 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
2220 Mr. Goldman?
2221 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
2222 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
2223 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2224 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
2225 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
2226 Mr. Guthrie?
2227 *The Chair. Aye.
2228 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
2229 Ms. Castor?
2230 *Ms. Castor. No.
2231 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
2232 Mr. Peters?
2233 *Mr. Peters. No.
2234 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
2235 Mr. Menendez?
2236 *Mr. Menendez. No.
2237 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
2238 Mr. Mullin?
2239 *Mr. Mullin. No.
2240 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
2241 Ms. McClellan?
2242 [No response.]
2243 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?

2244 *Ms. McClellan. No.
2245 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
2246 Ms. DeGette?
2247 *Ms. DeGette. No.
2248 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
2249 Ms. Matsui?
2250 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2251 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
2252 Mr. Tonko?
2253 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2254 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
2255 Mr. Veasey?
2256 *Mr. Veasey. No.
2257 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
2258 Ms. Schrier?
2259 *Ms. Schrier. No.
2260 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
2261 Mrs. Fletcher?
2262 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
2263 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
2264 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2265 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
2266 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
2267 Mr. Auchincloss?
2268 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

2269 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
2270 Mr. Pallone?
2271 *Mr. Pallone. No.
2272 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
2273 Chairman Latta?
2274 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
2275 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.
2276 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be
2277 recognized on the roll?
2278 How is the gentleman from Texas recorded?
2279 *Voice. Ms. Pfluger.
2280 *The Clerk. Oh, Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.
2281 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.
2282 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
2283 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be
2284 recorded?
2285 [Pause.]
2286 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report.
2287 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 15
2288 ayes and 14 noes.
2289 *Mr. Latta. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.
2290 The chair calls up H.R. 3638, and asks the clerk to
2291 report.
2292 *The Clerk. H.R. 3638, a bill to direct the Secretary
2293 of Energy to prepare periodic assessments, and --

2294 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
2295 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2296 amendment at any point.

2297 So ordered.

2298 [The bill follows:]

2299

2300 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2301

2302 *Mr. Latta. The chair recognizes himself for five
2303 minutes in support of the bill.

2304 I speak in support of my legislation, H.R. 3638, the
2305 Electric Supply Chain Act. The legislation would direct the
2306 Department of Energy to conduct ongoing assessments of
2307 matters affecting the supply chain for the power sector. The
2308 Electric Supply Chain Act will seek to uncover risks,
2309 vulnerabilities, and security considerations in the
2310 availability of manufactured grid components that are
2311 necessary to expand our electric infrastructure.

2312 In addition, this bill will leverage the expertise of
2313 our power sector industry to improve the department's
2314 understanding of the part -- of the power sector and
2315 strengthen supply chains that are critical to the timely
2316 development of electric generation and transmission
2317 infrastructure.

2318 In recent years we have seen how supply chain
2319 constraints and bottlenecks for key grid components such as
2320 distribution transformers and natural gas turbines can stifle
2321 infrastructure development. By establishing periodic
2322 assessments under this legislation, the department will
2323 remain in a proactive posture to identify and address matters
2324 affecting our power sector supply chain as they arise.

2325 By all reports and projections, our nation is on the
2326 precipice of dramatic increases in electricity demand,

2327 primarily driven by energy-intensive uses such as data
2328 centers and domestic manufacturing. The timing of projected
2329 demands is occurring as historic levels of baseload power are
2330 leaving the system due to a confluence -- state and Federal
2331 actions that attack fossil fuels and subsidize preferred
2332 sources of intermittent generation. In fact, an estimated 52
2333 gigawatts of baseload power is expected to retire over the
2334 next 4 years.

2335 Meanwhile, the International Energy Agency estimates
2336 U.S. electricity demand will increase over the next three
2337 years by the equivalent supply of the whole State of
2338 California. These job-creating industries remain vital to
2339 economic prosperity and our national security. We cannot sit
2340 idly by while our adversaries seek to gain competitive
2341 advantage to control the next generation economy.

2342 This bill takes an important step to prepare our Federal
2343 agencies against supply chain constraints that could occur as
2344 our nation seeks to increase electric generation to meet
2345 demands of the next generation.

2346 I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield
2347 back the balance of my time, and are there any other members
2348 wishing to speak on the bill?

2349 The gentleman from New York is recognized to strike the
2350 last word?

2351 *Mr. Tonko. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

2352 *Mr. Latta. Five minutes.

2353 *Mr. Tonko. I move to strike the last word.

2354 This week we considered the SUPPORT Act in regard to
2355 mental health and behavioral health and its reauthorization
2356 on the floor. And I see some very strong similarities with
2357 the Electric Supply Chain Act because I am not opposed to
2358 what is being proposed in this bill. In fact, during the
2359 Biden Administration DoE published an excellent series of
2360 reports entitled, "America's Strategy to Secure the Supply
2361 Chain for a Robust Clean Energy Transition," which assessed
2362 our domestic supply chains for grid equipment, energy
2363 storage, and much more. So this is a good, common-sense
2364 thing. But asking DoE to write this report in the context of
2365 what is happening at the agency is challenging. We don't
2366 know the exact state of the Office of Manufacturing and
2367 Energy Supply Chains. We don't know how many DoE employees
2368 that are leaving the agency were in MESC or how those
2369 departures will affect the office's capacity to go forward.

2370 So Mr. Chair, I would love to be able to work with you
2371 on this bill. I would like to be able to suggest some non-
2372 controversial improvements to make sure that DoE is
2373 considering a wide range of supply chain issues in its
2374 reports. But as a first order issue, we need to begin by
2375 having a better bipartisan understanding of what is happening
2376 at the Department of Energy, and what exactly is the Trump

2377 Administration's plan for MESC and moving forward. Until we
2378 can get more information from the Administration and a
2379 commitment to maintain the capacity and capabilities of MESC,
2380 I will have a hard time supporting this proposal.

2381 With that I yield back.

2382 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
2383 back. Is there any further discussion?

2384 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five
2385 minutes to strike the last word.

2386 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an
2387 amendment at the desk.

2388 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady has an amendment at the
2389 desk.

2390 *Ms. McClellan. It is labeled AMD_HR3638_01.

2391 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report on the amendment.

2392 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3638, offered by Ms.
2393 McClellan. Add at the end the following.

2394 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
2395 amendment is dispensed with.

2396 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

2397

2398 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2399

2400 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2401 minutes in support of her amendment.

2402 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2403 I agree with the gentleman from New York that there are
2404 a lot of similarities between this bill and the SUPPORT Act
2405 in that this committee and ultimately this Congress continues
2406 to put more responsibilities on agencies as -- on the one
2407 hand, while the Administration is gutting the workforce that
2408 could implement it. And I don't know how this bill would be
2409 anything more than a paper tiger without the workforce to put
2410 it in place.

2411 And so my amendment would prevent the bill from taking
2412 effect until the Secretary of Energy can certify two things:
2413 first, that the Department of Energy has the sufficient staff
2414 in place to support the timely progress of ongoing programs
2415 and projects authorized and funded by Congress, as well as
2416 the new responsibilities like the assessments required by
2417 this bill and any other bill we discuss today; second, that
2418 the Department of Energy has no plans for further reductions
2419 in force.

2420 As we consider the Electric Supply Chain Act we can't
2421 look at it in a vacuum, but we have to look at the broader
2422 context. And the reality is that drastic and reckless
2423 workforce reductions and funding cuts are hampering the
2424 Department of Energy. So already DOGE has forced out over

2425 3,500 Department of Energy staff, and we have heard that
2426 further mass layoffs are coming. Key offices responsible for
2427 implementing this bill have lost significant portions of
2428 their staff. For example, the Office of Manufacturing and
2429 Energy Supply Chains has lost about two-thirds of its staff;
2430 the Loan Programs Office has lost a significant number of
2431 staff and is being gutted under the reconciliation plan that
2432 the Republicans pushed through two weeks ago.

2433 Across the country businesses and community partners are
2434 waiting to hear from the Department of Energy right now about
2435 critical contracts and access to funding, and congressional
2436 offices inquiring on their behalf can't get any information
2437 because there aren't enough people to provide it. My office
2438 has heard that in some cases the Department of Energy can't
2439 even determine who is responsible for certain projects
2440 because so many experienced staff have been forced out. And
2441 with the Department of Energy already struggling to meet its
2442 current obligations, we can't pretend it is business as usual
2443 and justify putting additional duties on an already stressed
2444 and under -- you know, overworked and not enough workforce.

2445 So while I am all for proactively getting ahead of
2446 studying and looking at the domestic supply chain, I don't
2447 think we should send any false hope to the American people
2448 that any of this is actually going to be done because we
2449 don't have -- unless we know that the Department of Energy

2450 has the staffing levels, office capabilities, expertise, and
2451 operating plans to do the work it already has to do plus this
2452 additional work.

2453 And so I urge my colleagues to support this amendment,
2454 and I yield back.

2455 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back, and I recognize
2456 myself to strike the last word to speak in opposition to the
2457 amendment for five minutes.

2458 This bill is important to focus the department on
2459 critical shortcomings in supply chains for electric grid
2460 components. With spiking energy demand, the pressures on
2461 assuring secure and reliable supplies of components are only
2462 increasing. The thrust of this amendment is that DoE may not
2463 have the capacity to do this or many of us other critical
2464 functions.

2465 I will look forward to talking to the Secretary of
2466 Energy next week about his plans to reorganize the agency and
2467 focus on its energy security functions.

2468 I remind members that DoE has tremendous capabilities.
2469 Even before the massive spike in the department's size over
2470 the last few years DoE has operated with over 12,000
2471 employees and over 100,000 contractors. That extends across
2472 a massive network of labs and other facilities. These world-
2473 class capabilities can manage a focus on our most critical
2474 electric supply chain issues.

2475 This bill helps focus DoE on our electric supply chains,
2476 and I urge a no vote on this amendment.

2477 And I yield back the balance of my time. And are there
2478 others?

2479 The gentlelady from Washington, I think, had her hand up
2480 first to strike the last word to speak on the amendment.

2481 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
2482 strike the last word to strongly support Representative
2483 McClellan's amendment because this addition for Department of
2484 Energy staffing is just plain common sense. Frankly, given
2485 the chainsaw that this Administration has taken to the
2486 Department of Energy, there is this level of cognitive
2487 dissonance here that is incredibly frustrating, giving them
2488 more work, but taking away the employees.

2489 And we both agree -- I think we all agree that a study
2490 on supply chain issues is critical when it comes to enhancing
2491 our grid, and that is a really good thing. And we have all
2492 heard from the utilities in every one of our districts about
2493 dangerously low inventories of transformers, for example.
2494 The vulnerabilities in our supply chain have significantly
2495 increased lead times in the past few years and, frankly, are
2496 becoming a national security issue.

2497 But what troubles me is the crickets that I am hearing
2498 from the other side of the aisle when the Administration does
2499 things like cut in half the staff at the office at the

2500 Department of Energy that is charged with manufacturing and
2501 supply chains, or when the Administration doubles down on the
2502 chaotic tariff rollout on steel, the same steel that we need
2503 to make these grid components.

2504 So all of this ultimately leads to higher costs and less
2505 reliable electricity. So I would say to my colleagues, my
2506 Republican colleagues, this amendment is your chance to show
2507 that you mean business and you actually want this done. It
2508 is an amendment that is simply asking for a thumbs up from
2509 Secretary Wright that he has got the workforce and the
2510 resources necessary to carry out the Department of Energy's
2511 mission and safeguard the country's energy security,
2512 including electric supply chains.

2513 I want to strongly support this amendment and encourage
2514 my colleagues to vote for it.

2515 And I yield back. Thank you.

2516 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back the balance of
2517 her time. Are there others wishing to speak on the
2518 amendment?

2519 The gentlelady from New York's 14th district is
2520 recognized for five minutes to strike the last word.

2521 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you,
2522 Mr. Chair.

2523 You know, I think many of my colleagues here are -- and
2524 including myself -- are looking at some of these bills, and

2525 there is just genuinely some confusion here. The underlying
2526 bill that we are seeing and considering today reads as a
2527 common-sense proposal. It is asking that we ensure Congress
2528 is informed of efforts to strengthen our domestic grid and
2529 improve our electric supply chain. That doesn't seem so bad,
2530 except the agency that is responsible and the office that
2531 would be responsible for doing this has been DOGE'd. So are
2532 we -- I think it is -- what we are seeing, I think, is some
2533 confusion from the Republican majority of which one is it.

2534 All of these offices have been cut, personnel eliminated
2535 because the Republican Party is saying this is wasteful, it
2536 is fraudulent, it does not belong, and yet the Republican
2537 majority now continues to introduce bills to do things that
2538 they have deemed as wasteful. This office has been DOGE'd.
2539 So it has been cut. It has been -- personnel have been
2540 eliminated. So why is the Republican majority also
2541 introducing legislation and bills trying to add to -- work to
2542 an agency that has been, by and large, eliminated?

2543 In this bill itself, Mr. -- the congressman's study in
2544 particular would be conducted by the Office of Manufacturing
2545 and Energy Supply Chains. The Trump Administration has
2546 proposed a 75 percent cut to this office. So what are we
2547 doing here?

2548 And it is a genuine, good faith question. I don't mean
2549 this to be a send up. I just want to know. Is this wasteful

2550 or is it not?

2551 And I speak in support of the gentlelady's amendment
2552 because her amendment is simply asking us to be honest, and
2553 she is asking for clarity from this Administration to say we
2554 actually will have the staff and we will certify that we have
2555 the resources to do the thing that this bill asks us to do.
2556 And so I think this -- what this amendment does is that it is
2557 preventing us from saying one thing and doing another, which
2558 perhaps is why the majority is opposed to it, but I think it
2559 is important and I think that people deserve clarity.

2560 Do Republicans believe that this office is wasteful or
2561 not? Because after telling Elon Musk and after telling
2562 plenty of people that they are going to go along with DOGE,
2563 now they are turning around and trying to actually add and
2564 reverse all of these efforts that they just cut. So I think
2565 we just want some clarity here. Do we believe that this is
2566 wasteful or not? Do we want to hire the staff back that was
2567 doing this important work or not?

2568 If the majority realizes that, gee, maybe all of these
2569 cuts weren't a good idea and maybe these people were doing
2570 good, honorable, important work as public servants for the
2571 American people, I would love for us to have a conversation
2572 about reinstating their work, because certainly it seems like
2573 there seems to be some buyer's remorse here. And we are
2574 happy to accept any reversals and opinions.

2575 And with that I yield back.

2576 *Mr. Latta. Do any other members seek recognition to
2577 speak on the amendment?

2578 Hearing none --

2579 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman?

2580 *Mr. Latta. Oh, I am sorry. Oh, I am sorry. The
2581 gentlelady from --

2582 *Ms. DeGette. I move to strike the last word.

2583 *Mr. Latta. Oh, the gentlelady from Colorado is
2584 recognized for five minutes to strike the last word.

2585 *Ms. DeGette. I will yield to the gentlelady from
2586 Virginia.

2587 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2588 Part of the reason why I am introducing this amendment
2589 is, you know, when I was a state legislator and we introduced
2590 a bill that would put any new requirement on any state
2591 agency, we would have to get a fiscal impact statement that
2592 would outline how many full-time employees do you need, or
2593 full-time equivalents do you need to perform these duties.
2594 And if the agency didn't have them, we couldn't pass the bill
2595 unless we had a budget amendment to fund new employees to
2596 conduct the work.

2597 And I think, as we debated for 26 hours, you know, 2
2598 weeks ago whether or not we were operating efficiently as a
2599 government, whether or not we were going to get a hold of the

2600 national debt -- because, you know, states can't print money,
2601 and that is why we have to make sure that we fund any new
2602 employees necessary to do these new duties -- and
2603 essentially, that is what this amendment is trying to do, is
2604 say, look, before you put new responsibilities on an agency,
2605 do you have the capacity to actually do it? And if not,
2606 let's be transparent about it, as the gentlewoman from New
2607 York says, and figure out do we need to hire these people
2608 back or hire new people?

2609 But how can the Office of Manufacturing and Energy
2610 Supply Chains conduct a study when two-thirds of the staff is
2611 gone? And yes, the chairman pointed out, well, they are
2612 contractors and all of these partners, but a lot of contracts
2613 are being cut, and a lot of the of the research and duties
2614 that the Federal Government has given to private or non-
2615 profit or government partners are being cut either in the
2616 reconciliation bill, in the rescission bill, or the new
2617 budget that we are about to debate.

2618 And I think one of my biggest frustrations making the
2619 transition from state government to Federal Government is it
2620 is just common sense that before you pass a bill -- and I get
2621 it, you want to pass something to show the American people we
2622 are trying to get ahead of meeting our energy needs. We all
2623 agree we need to do that. We all agree that we need to make
2624 sure there is enough energy on the grid. We all agree that

2625 we need to make sure that the supply chain can meet the
2626 demands of building and generating new energy. And a lot of
2627 this is because of the growth of AI. But AI has not reached
2628 the point where it can conduct this study. Maybe one day it
2629 is, but until it is we need people.

2630 We need people to do the work that we keep imposing on
2631 these agencies. And at some point we have got to be
2632 responsible and step back and say, before we add new
2633 responsibilities, can we make sure we have the people that
2634 can actually do it? And that is what this amendment is
2635 intended to. There were amendments to the SUPPORT Act to do
2636 the same thing.

2637 And it is kind of delusional to just ignore what is
2638 happening in the executive branch and what is happening in
2639 the -- with the appropriators and say we are just going to
2640 move forward and put all these new responsibilities on an
2641 agency that doesn't have the capacity to do it anyway. And I
2642 don't think that is what the American people sent us here to
2643 do. They sent us here to be responsible and transparent.

2644 And with that I yield.

2645 *Ms. DeGette. I yield back.

2646 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back the balance of
2647 her time. Is there -- and the gentleman from New Jersey to
2648 strike the last word for five minutes.

2649 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chair. I want to speak in

2650 support of my colleague's amendment and the comments that
2651 have been made by Democratic members of the committee in
2652 terms of the reality as it exists at the executive branch and
2653 all the cuts that DOGE has made and what we are trying to do
2654 here.

2655 And the thing that I think is important is I don't
2656 understand why we should take House Republicans' word that
2657 the Department of Energy has the staffing capacity to do
2658 this. The amendment simply states that the Secretary of
2659 Energy, Trump's appointee, would make this certification.
2660 And I think that person is better positioned to make an
2661 assurance that he has the appropriate staffing needed to do
2662 the work that you are asking to be conducted by various
2663 Federal agencies. So I think it is an easy yes on this
2664 amendment. The Secretary of Energy, if he believes that he
2665 does have the staffing capabilities, can certify so and the
2666 bill would take full force and effect. I don't think we
2667 should be doing so before we have that assurance. This is
2668 two branches of government working together, and that is why
2669 the amendment makes so much sense. And we should all be in
2670 support of it.

2671 With that I yield back.

2672 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2673 further discussion on the amendment?

2674 Seeing no further discussion, all --

2675 *Ms. Castor. We want a roll call.

2676 *Mr. Latta. The roll call has been requested. All in
2677 favor -- or those in favor will signify by saying aye; those
2678 opposed, nay. And the clerk will take the roll.

2679 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

2680 *Mr. Weber. No.

2681 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

2682 [Laughter.]

2683 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

2684 [No response.]

2685 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2686 *Mr. Allen. No.

2687 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2688 Mr. Balderson?

2689 *Mr. Balderson. No.

2690 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

2691 Mr. Pfluger?

2692 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

2693 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

2694 Mrs. Harshbarger?

2695 [No response.]

2696 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

2697 [No response.]

2698 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

2699 *Mr. James. No.

2700 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
2701 Mr. Bentz?
2702 *Mr. Bentz. No.
2703 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
2704 Mr. Fry?
2705 *Mr. Fry. No.
2706 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2707 Ms. Lee?
2708 [No response.]
2709 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
2710 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
2711 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
2712 Mr. Rulli?
2713 *Mr. Rulli. No.
2714 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
2715 Mr. Evans?
2716 *Mr. Evans. No.
2717 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
2718 Mr. Goldman?
2719 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2720 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2721 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2722 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2723 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2724 Mr. Guthrie?

2725 *The Chair. No.
2726 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2727 Ms. Castor?
2728 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
2729 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2730 Mr. Peters?
2731 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2732 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2733 Mr. Menendez?
2734 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2735 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2736 Mr. Mullin?
2737 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2738 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2739 Ms. McClellan?
2740 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2741 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2742 Ms. DeGette?
2743 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2744 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2745 Ms. Matsui?
2746 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2747 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2748 Mr. Tonko?
2749 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

2750 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2751 Mr. Veasey?
2752 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2753 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2754 Ms. Schrier?
2755 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2756 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2757 Mrs. Fletcher?
2758 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2759 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2760 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2761 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
2762 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
2763 Mr. Auchincloss?
2764 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
2765 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
2766 Mr. Pallone?
2767 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2768 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2769 Chairman Latta?
2770 *Mr. Latta. No.
2771 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.
2772 [Pause.]
2773 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
2774 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

2775 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

2776 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the result of the
2777 roll call.

2778 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 14
2779 ayes and 15 noes.

2780 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
2781 any further amendments to the bill?

2782 Hearing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
2783 3638. All those in favor say aye, those opposed, no. And a
2784 roll call -- no, a roll call vote is not called on this.

2785 All those in favor will respond by saying aye.

2786 Those opposed, no.

2787 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

2788 And the Chair calls up H.R. 3157, and asks the clerk to
2789 report.

2790 *The Clerk. H.R. 3157, a bill to amend the Public
2791 Utility Regulatory Policies Act.

2792 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
2793 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2794 amendment at any point.

2795 So ordered.

2796 [The bill follows:]

2797

2798 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2799

2800 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

2801 The gentleman from New York is recognized --

2802 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2803 *Mr. Latta. -- for five minutes to speak on the bill.

2804 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2805 Today we are considering a common-sense and forward-
2806 looking proposal, H.R. 3157, the State Energy Accountability
2807 Act, which ensures that our pursuit of clean energy does not
2808 come at the expense of reliability, affordability, and
2809 national security.

2810 The State Energy Accountability Act would amend the
2811 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, PURPA, to add a new
2812 standard requiring state utility regulators to conduct and
2813 publish evaluations of the impact of their intermittent
2814 energy mandates. These evaluations must assess long-term
2815 resource adequacy, the ability to meet demand during extreme
2816 weather or peak load, ratepayer impacts, and whether retiring
2817 baseload plants can realistically be replaced by resources
2818 that the state is requiring. And critically, these
2819 evaluations must be made public. Transparency isn't just
2820 good policy. It is the least that we owe the working
2821 families and small businesses who are footing the bill when
2822 the lights go out or utility bills go up.

2823 Let's be clear. This bill doesn't block or ban
2824 renewable energy. What it does is simple and necessary: it

2825 requires transparency and accountability from states that
2826 mandate the use of intermittent energy sources. If a state
2827 is going to require a certain percentage of electricity come
2828 from solar or wind or other intermittent sources, then the
2829 state's regulators ought to be able to show the American
2830 taxpayers how those mandates will affect grid reliability,
2831 utility rates, and emergency preparedness over the next
2832 decade.

2833 Too often policies are adopted in pursuit of unrealistic
2834 climate goals without fully evaluating their downstream
2835 effects, especially on the bulk power system. In my home
2836 state of New York the Climate Leadership and Community
2837 Protection Act, or CLCPA, is a case study in what happens
2838 when ambition and ideology ignores practical reality. It set
2839 some of the most aggressive climate goals in the country:
2840 100 percent zero emission electricity by 2024; and net 0
2841 emissions economy-wide by 2050. But here is the problem:
2842 there is no clear or credible roadmap to get there without
2843 compromising grid reliability and affordability for millions
2844 of New Yorkers.

2845 And consequences are already showing. Report after
2846 report from New York State's ISO make it clear the phase-out
2847 of reliable baseload resources like natural gas is out-
2848 stripping the build-out of any viable replacement. And on
2849 its current trajectory, New York is heading straight for a

2850 serious capacity shortfall, especially during winter peaks or
2851 extreme weather. And this is a life-threatening situation.

2852 And then there is the cost. New York's own Climate
2853 Action Council has acknowledged the implementation could run
2854 into the hundreds of billions of dollars. This is an
2855 economic burden that is already landing on the backs of
2856 working families, small businesses, and seniors in our state
2857 while reliable baseload resources like natural gas are being
2858 phased out faster than any viable replacement can come
2859 online.

2860 Now, unfortunately, New York is not alone in this
2861 crisis. California, with its own aggressive clean energy
2862 mandates, has faced recurring blackouts, soaring rates, and
2863 has even had to fire up natural gas peaker plants during heat
2864 waves just to keep the lights on. Americans deserve better.
2865 Americans deserve more transparency. They deserve to know
2866 how these policies affect their energy bills, the reliability
2867 of their power, and the resilience of the grid. And that is
2868 why the State Energy Accountability Act is so important. It
2869 doesn't ban renewable energy. It simply says, if you are
2870 going to mandate it, you owe constituents and taxpayers the
2871 truth.

2872 So I urge my colleagues to stand up for reliability and
2873 affordability and support this measure today. And with that
2874 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2875 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
2876 there discussion on the bill, any further discussion?

2877 If there is no further discussion, are there amendments
2878 to the bill?

2879 Seeing no amendments, if there is no further discussion,
2880 do you want a roll call?

2881 *Ms. Castor. No roll call, voice vote.

2882 *Mr. Latta. We will have a voice vote on this.

2883 All those in favor of passage of the legislation -- of
2884 the bill will signify by saying aye and those nay.

2885 All those aye?

2886 All those no?

2887 The ayes have it and the bill is agreed to.

2888 The chair calls up H.R. 3628, and asks the clerk to
2889 report.

2890 *The Clerk. H.R. 3628, a bill to amend the Public
2891 Utility Regulatory Policies Act --

2892 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
2893 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2894 amendment at any point.

2895 So ordered.

2896 [The bill follows:]

2897

2898 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2899

2900 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized?

2901 For what purpose does the gentleman from Colorado wish
2902 to be recognized?

2903 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
2904 word.

2905 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
2906 minutes to strike the last word on the bill.

2907 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am proud to
2908 speak in strong support of my bill, the State Planning for
2909 Reliability and Affordability Act.

2910 This critical bill will help incentivize better energy
2911 policy across the nation and in states like Colorado that can
2912 lower the financial burden my constituents are facing by
2913 encouraging states to consider implementing policy that
2914 focuses on long-term energy reliability, and therefore
2915 encouraging and positively impacting affordability for
2916 ratepayers.

2917 My constituents from Colorado's 8th congressional
2918 district sent me to Congress with a mission to fight for
2919 common-sense policies that will help lower their cost of
2920 living and enable them to pursue the American dream. For so
2921 many in my community that begins and ends with energy
2922 affordability, which goes hand in hand with energy
2923 reliability. Unfortunately, Coloradans are paying 24 percent
2924 more in electric costs than they were just 4 years ago. In

2925 my district alone, which is 40 percent Hispanic, nearly 90
2926 percent of Latino families saw a rate increase in just the
2927 last year.

2928 Make no mistake, this is a direct result of red tape and
2929 over-regulation by the State of Colorado and our Public
2930 Utilities Commission. Our legislature, governor, and Public
2931 Utility Commission continue to pursue reckless energy
2932 policies that send our state careening towards an uncertain
2933 future. For example, more than 10 percent of all
2934 dispatchable power retirement in the nation this year will
2935 take place in Colorado. And our state Public Utility
2936 Commission recently approved the first statewide mandated
2937 electrification plan in the nation in a state where 80
2938 percent of ratepayers say they still support voluntary action
2939 over mandates.

2940 When replicated nationwide, these policies don't just
2941 threaten Americans' economic prosperity, they imperil
2942 American greatness and innovation itself. If America is to
2943 lead the rest of the world in the next generation of history-
2944 defining technology from artificial intelligence to quantum
2945 computing, then energy reliability is non-negotiable.

2946 As the United States continues to make rapid
2947 advancements in these fields, and as companies continue to
2948 invest in domestic workforces and supply chains, our national
2949 energy needs will only go up. In fact, in my district, my

2950 local electric provider has projected energy demand to
2951 increase by 3 times over the next 10 years, and that is after
2952 already doubling in the last 10 years.

2953 Simply put, if states like Colorado want to meet energy
2954 reliability demands and lower costs for working families, the
2955 answer is more power, not less. Sweeping electrification
2956 mandates and arbitrary Green New Deal deadlines that retire
2957 crucial baseload dispatchable power simply doesn't cut it.

2958 At both the state and the Federal level, policy-makers
2959 must adopt approaches that leverage every avenue available to
2960 achieve an energy ecosystem that is safe, affordable, and
2961 reliable. That is why the State Planning for Reliability and
2962 Affordability Act is so important. It clearly takes a light
2963 touch to regulating and incentivizing entities like the
2964 Colorado Public Utilities Commission to consider long-term
2965 reliability requirements that bolster and support American
2966 innovation, keeps the light on rain or shine, and helps
2967 reduce utility bills for the middle class. That way, when
2968 weighing policies that will impact energy reliability, these
2969 entities have to take in that thoughtful stakeholder feedback
2970 that impacts the reliability before making their decision.

2971 My district knows energy better than just about any
2972 other community. From producers that generate the vast
2973 majority of oil and natural gas in Colorado to cutting-edge
2974 battery storage, wind and solar projects, my constituents are

2975 ready to get to work to answer the nation's call for more
2976 power to improve reliability and affordability. They just
2977 need their state policy-makers to get on board. This bill
2978 helps to accomplish that, which is why I urge my colleagues
2979 to join me in supporting this bill.

2980 Thank you, and I yield back.

2981 *Ms. DeGette. Would the gentleman yield?

2982 Would the gentleman yield?

2983 *Mr. Evans. I yield to the chairman.

2984 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2985 further discussion on the bill?

2986 The gentlelady from Colorado is recognized --

2987 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can see why
2988 my colleague --

2989 *Mr. Latta. -- for five minutes.

2990 *Ms. DeGette. -- from the 8th CD would not want to
2991 yield to me, I just wanted to ask him a question. And the
2992 question I wanted to ask him -- because he was implying
2993 through his statement on this legislation that his bill would
2994 require states like Colorado to amend their energy plans to
2995 include fossil fuels and other types of fuels. But what I
2996 was going to ask him was, as I read this summary of the bill,
2997 it says state public utility commissions should consider
2998 mandating within two years that the utilities include in
2999 their integrated resources plans measures to procure non-

3000 intermittent electricity for their needs.

3001 But the question I was going to ask him was, since
3002 Colorado has already adopted its plan, it would seem to me
3003 that this bill would not make any -- would not have any
3004 effect on Colorado's plan or the plan of any other state that
3005 has adopted a plan. And maybe I am wrong, but I can see why
3006 he wouldn't want to answer that question.

3007 But the implication of this bill is somehow that
3008 renewable energy is necessarily more expensive and less
3009 reliable than fossil fuels, and I don't think that states
3010 like Colorado and other states have determined that. What
3011 this bill would -- is intended to do, I think, although
3012 questionable whether it would do it -- is to push utilities
3013 away from renewable energy sources in favor of fossil fuels
3014 under the guise of reliability.

3015 But, you know, I think that that is a false premise
3016 because I want to talk about a couple of different scenarios
3017 that we have seen recently. The power outages during the
3018 Texas winter storms in 2021, when Governor Abbott wrongly
3019 blamed wind and solar power for the state's massive grid
3020 failure but renewables outperformed grid operator forecasts
3021 during 90 percent of the blackout, and the rest fell short by
3022 at most 1/15 as much as gas plants.

3023 And FERC, in fact, said -- and I remember, actually,
3024 this committee -- Ranking Member Castor will remember the

3025 hearings that we had after the Texas blackouts, and it was
3026 because of inadequately weatherized power plants and natural
3027 gas shutting down because it got so cold in Texas. And there
3028 are many other examples like that.

3029 In Colorado we have already codified our plan and, at
3030 least in my district, Xcel Energy has implemented a plan
3031 which they have decided will get them to affordable,
3032 reliable, renewable energy by 2030. And I don't know if my
3033 colleague from the 8th CD has been up -- been over to the
3034 Xcel Energy trading floor in downtown Denver.

3035 You have been there? It is a thing to behold to see how
3036 Xcel Energy works on their energy mix, both renewables but
3037 also fossil fuels, to shuttle it back and forth to make sure
3038 that we are using the most cost effective and solid energy
3039 sources day to day.

3040 And in fact, Mr. Chairman, I have several times invited
3041 this committee to come. I think it would be a great field
3042 trip for this committee to come and see the Xcel trading
3043 floor, but also to see NREL and some of the other really
3044 valuable energy agencies that we have in Colorado because we
3045 are really proud of it.

3046 And so I guess I just don't see why we should enact a
3047 law like this which doesn't even really do anything because
3048 it doesn't mandate it, which I guess is good, but also seems
3049 to infer that renewable energy is a problem, because I think

3050 it is working in Colorado and I think it is working in many
3051 other states.

3052 And with that I would yield back.

3053 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back, and
3054 the gentleman from Texas's 11th district is recognized for
3055 five minutes to strike --

3056 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3057 *Mr. Latta. -- the last word.

3058 *Mr. Pfluger. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

3059 *Mr. Evans. Thank you to the gentleman from Texas.
3060 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3061 Just in quick response here, I think the gentlelady is
3062 perhaps unclear about what the bill does. The bill is
3063 talking about the reliability of all-of-the-above energy
3064 sources. And so if energy is reliable, then it is not
3065 impacted by this bill.

3066 And as we talk about the planning that has occurred in
3067 Colorado, I think it is important to note a couple of things
3068 that have already been brought up, which are that costs have
3069 gone up by 24 percent in the last few years in Colorado.
3070 Colorado is responsible for 10 percent of the baseload
3071 generation that is slated to retire in the nation, despite
3072 only producing 1.2 percent of the power in the nation, and
3073 that there are estimates that actually show that the path
3074 that Colorado is on lead to 137 megawatt shortage in

3075 electrical -- electricity on the grid by 2030.

3076 And so when it comes to making sure that we have
3077 sufficient reliability on our grid, legislation like this,
3078 which is tech neutral and merely focuses on the reliability,
3079 is critically important to make sure that we keep the
3080 reliability and the affordability of the grid available to
3081 the ratepayers.

3082 Thank you --

3083 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman from Texas yield?

3084 *Mr. Pfluger. Thirty seconds to the gentlelady from
3085 Colorado.

3086 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. Well, I thank you very much.
3087 At least you will yield to me. I just wanted to ask my
3088 colleague from Colorado, if costs went up as he says, and if
3089 Colorado has already adopted his plan, how would this
3090 specific bill impact that?

3091 *Mr. Pfluger. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

3092 *Mr. Evans. Thank you. This bill focuses on, again,
3093 the reliability because, unfortunately in Colorado, as we
3094 have discussed, the emphasis is on things like first-in-the-
3095 nation electrical mandates and moving in a direction that
3096 prevents all-of-the-above energy options being afforded to
3097 the rate consumers, and mandating things like electrification
3098 and no other forms of energy sources being available. And
3099 unfortunately, that is not a reliable form of energy. And

3100 when you don't have that reliability, then the affordability
3101 component suffers, again leading to that 24 percent increase
3102 to ratepayers.

3103 And I yield back.

3104 *Mr. Pfluger. I yield back.

3105 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
3106 from New York's 14th district is recognized for five minutes
3107 to strike the last word.

3108 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment
3109 at the desk.

3110 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady has an amendment at the
3111 desk. The clerk will report.

3112 Do you have the number?

3113 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes, it is AMD-HR3628_01.

3114 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3628, offered by Ms.
3115 Ocasio-Cortez. Page 3, line 19 --

3116 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
3117 amendment is dispensed with.

3118 [The amendment of Ms. Ocasio-Cortez follows:]

3119

3120 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3121

3122 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
3123 minutes in support of her amendment.

3124 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3125 You know, I think to continue the robust discussion that
3126 was just happening, you know, there is a lot of conversation
3127 here about reliable, and implementing reliability in the
3128 energy grid as the guise for this bill. But curiously, the
3129 standards that the gentleman lays down for what is reliable
3130 are only met by oil, gas, and coal. This is an oil, gas, and
3131 coal bill. This is a fossil fuel industry bill.

3132 And I will say, since the gentleman invoked having a 40
3133 percent Hispanic and Latino district, I would be remiss
3134 without saying this bill would devastate the reliability of
3135 the energy grid for Puerto Ricans in the United States. In
3136 Puerto Rico gas and oil infrastructure is some of the least
3137 reliable. Luma, which relies on coal, oil, and gas, is
3138 repeatedly putting millions of Puerto Ricans at risk. And we
3139 have seen that not every place in the country is one size
3140 fits all, genuinely.

3141 Solar is a place where Latino communities, either in
3142 Puerto Rico or across the Sunbelt in the United States, rely
3143 on solar to allow them to have more reliable energy resources
3144 and energy than the fossil fuel infrastructure around them
3145 has. And when we only define reliable as oil, gas, or coal,
3146 we really shut off our ability for people to have resilient

3147 and reliable energy through natural disasters.

3148 This bill completely ignores the fact that modern grid
3149 solutions such as battery storage or building strategic
3150 transmission lines or managing energy demand can lead to a
3151 more reliable grid faster and for less money.

3152 I want us to talk about battery storage in particular,
3153 which this bill, as written, would exclude. As I said
3154 earlier, virtually all current battery technologies are
3155 unable to operate continuously by the narrow lines as laid
3156 out by this bill. Therefore, batteries are de facto excluded
3157 from this bill's definition of reliable generation when
3158 battery storage in and of itself is one of the most promising
3159 technologies that we have to make our grid more reliable.
3160 That means that this bill ignores the fact that solar and
3161 battery storage, not fossil fuels, have been proven to be
3162 more resilient to severe weather events in places like Puerto
3163 Rico.

3164 And I can tell you one of your own colleagues, Jennifer
3165 Gonzalez, who is now the governor of Puerto Rico, is moving
3166 towards increasing fossil fuel reliance, and we have seen a
3167 sevenfold increase in the projected blackouts on the island
3168 this summer.

3169 This bill ignores the fact that clean energy and battery
3170 storage can deploy more reliably. Clean energy and storage,
3171 which currently makes up 95 percent of the energy projects

3172 looking to interconnect to our grid, take an average of 20 to
3173 30 months to develop, whereas gas plants can take over five
3174 years. For this reason I am introducing an amendment
3175 requiring that states also consider investments in large-
3176 scale battery storage systems for the purpose of grid
3177 reliability. It is not taking away fossil fuels, but it is
3178 saying that we can't only have extreme and narrow definitions
3179 of fossil fuels as the only source of reliability.

3180 Encouraging investment in battery storage will not only
3181 help make our grid more reliable, it will encourage
3182 investment in domestic manufacturing and supply chains for
3183 critical minerals, transformers, and batteries, and a whole
3184 host of upstream products and components that I know my
3185 Republican colleagues support. And for this reason I urge my
3186 colleagues to support this amendment.

3187 And I yield back.

3188 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
3189 there -- the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for five
3190 minutes to strike the last word.

3191 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the
3192 gentlelady for her comments, specifically the comments that
3193 truly do highlight the all-of-the-above policies that were
3194 contained in this piece of proposed legislation.

3195 And I just want to state for the record as we continue
3196 this robust dialog here that NERC has identified aggressive

3197 state policies as the greatest risk to long-term reliability.
3198 So making sure that there are appropriate planning
3199 considerations around state policies in the reliability space
3200 when we are looking at the energy grid are entirely and
3201 completely appropriate, again, using that all-of-the-above
3202 lens for energy.

3203 The amendment that has just been offered by the
3204 gentlelady would include an additional requirement under
3205 section 111(d) for states to consider the inclusion of
3206 sufficient battery storage systems as part of their supply
3207 side resource planning. States would be required to consider
3208 factors such as cost effectiveness, reliability, and
3209 resilience, and the security of the system.

3210 And again, as a supporter of all-of-the-above energy, I
3211 don't oppose the concept of the amendment and would be
3212 willing to work with my colleague on incorporating battery
3213 storage into the underlying legislation. However, we do need
3214 some more time to conduct due diligence and review to ensure
3215 that the proposed amendment does not undermine or result in
3216 unintended consequences toward or negative interaction with
3217 the underlying policy of the legislation. And so I would ask
3218 if my colleague would consider withdrawing the amendment and
3219 working with us before a full committee markup.

3220 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I believe the -- my amendment is
3221 quite straightforward, so I will not be withdrawing it. But

3222 I look forward to -- you know, I think you can take a look at
3223 it right here. I am happy to provide the language of it. It
3224 is quite easy to put forward. I wouldn't withdraw it. I am
3225 not prepared to withdraw it at this moment. But I am happy
3226 to continue these conversations with you.

3227 *Mr. Evans. I would like to thank my colleague for
3228 that. Again, having been a legislator at the state level
3229 before, familiar with how often times even straightforward
3230 amendments can have unintended second, third, and fourth-
3231 order effects. And so, unfortunately, right now I can't
3232 support the amendment without further consideration, and
3233 would therefore urge my colleagues to oppose.

3234 And I yield back.

3235 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from
3236 California seek recognition?

3237 *Mr. Peters. I move to strike the last word and speak
3238 to the amendment.

3239 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
3240 minutes to speak -- to strike the last word.

3241 *Mr. Peters. I support this amendment. I just want to
3242 say a little bit about how the real world is working right
3243 now.

3244 I have heard from the other side of the aisle a lot
3245 about the need for natural gas power to meet demand as if it
3246 is the only way to meet demand, and how this "intermittent

3247 generation'' is harming reliability. But that is not how
3248 utilities actually are meeting demand, especially in my home
3249 state of California.

3250 Natural gas and peaker plants can be critical, and they
3251 are critical for meeting peak demand on the hottest days, at
3252 the most critical hours, when people are getting ready for
3253 work or coming home at the end of the day, or when the sun
3254 isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. But the fact is
3255 that clean energy like wind, solar, and storage is leading
3256 the charge to meet demand all day long.

3257 *Voice. Yes.

3258 *Mr. Peters. And it is getting even better at meeting
3259 demand during peak hours. And that is especially true when
3260 we can build a better grid, better utilize storage as this
3261 amendment addresses, and better utilize efficiency.

3262 Instead of moving our grid into the -- system into the
3263 future, and where costs continue to go down and our system is
3264 more reliable and has more energy, the majority is really
3265 insistent on holding us back for really ideological reasons.

3266 Why do I say it is ideological? The gentleman before on
3267 the other side identified 2,600 gigawatts of power that wants
3268 to be built NERC has identified. That is 2,600 nuclear power
3269 plants; 90 to 95 percent of that is non-emitting. It is
3270 available in short order, a year to two, as opposed to the
3271 five years it takes to put gas power on online. And that

3272 quantity is absolutely critical for us meeting the demand we
3273 are all talking about having to see.

3274 The second place I would just refer you to is the real
3275 leader in energy, I think, in the United States and around
3276 the world -- is Texas. What is Texas doing with renewables?
3277 It is building more solar than anybody else, not because the
3278 Federal Government is telling them to do that, because they
3279 know what they know, that that solar power is a huge
3280 component of meeting the quantity of demand of a growing
3281 state like Texas.

3282 So let's take it from Texas, and let's take it from
3283 places that have figured this out. When we are really
3284 talking about building quantity, it is all of the above. It
3285 is not just oil and gas. The oil and gas is critical in
3286 these peaker plants and for making sure that we have
3287 reliability. But that does not imply that it is cheaper to
3288 build out natural gas alone than everything else, or that we
3289 can do without all the quantity of these many, many
3290 gigawatts, thousands of gigawatts of power that will come
3291 from renewables, including solar, wind, geothermal, and
3292 storage.

3293 And I yield back -- or I yield to the gentlelady from
3294 New York.

3295 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. And, you know, I think,
3296 speaking of unintended consequences, what this amendment is

3297 highlighting is an unintended -- are the unintended
3298 consequences of the bill as presently written.

3299 The 30-day provision explicitly makes this not an all-
3300 of-the-above energy bill. It only allows oil, gas, and coal
3301 to meet the standards as presently written.

3302 This bill as written also has unintended consequences
3303 for some of the most vulnerable and energy-vulnerable
3304 Americans in the United States. Puerto Ricans pay the
3305 highest energy rates other than Hawaii. And people often go
3306 weeks, if not months, without power due to outages. And as
3307 written, the bill has unintended consequences.

3308 This amendment simply asks that states also consider
3309 investments in large-scale battery storage systems for the
3310 purpose of grid reliability. And I would urge all of my
3311 colleagues just to consider the fact that, given the
3312 possibility of unintended consequences in any piece of
3313 legislation, I believe that the -- that we are mitigating
3314 risk here with this amendment.

3315 And with that I yield back.

3316 *Mr. Peters. I yield back.

3317 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
3318 further discussion on the amendment?

3319 *Ms. Castor. A roll call vote.

3320 *Mr. Latta. Hearing none, a roll call vote has been
3321 requested and the clerk will take the roll.

3322 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
3323 *Mr. Weber. No.
3324 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
3325 Mr. Palmer?
3326 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3327 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3328 Mr. Allen?
3329 *Mr. Allen. No.
3330 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
3331 Mr. Balderson?
3332 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3333 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
3334 Mr. Pfluger?
3335 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3336 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
3337 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3338 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
3339 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
3340 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3341 [No response.]
3342 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
3343 *Mr. James. No.
3344 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3345 Mr. Bentz?
3346 [No response.]

3347 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3348 *Mr. Fry. No.
3349 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3350 Ms. Lee?
3351 [No response.]
3352 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3353 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3354 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3355 Mr. Rulli?
3356 *Mr. Rulli. No.
3357 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
3358 Mr. Evans?
3359 *Mr. Evans. No.
3360 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
3361 Mr. Goldman?
3362 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3363 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3364 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3365 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3366 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3367 Mr. Guthrie?
3368 *The Chair. No.
3369 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
3370 Ms. Castor?
3371 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

3372 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3373 Mr. Peters?
3374 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3375 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3376 Mr. Menendez?
3377 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3378 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3379 Mr. Mullin?
3380 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3381 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3382 Ms. McClellan?
3383 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3384 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3385 Ms. DeGette?
3386 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3387 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3388 Ms. Matsui?
3389 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3390 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3391 Mr. Tonko?
3392 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3393 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3394 Mr. Veasey?
3395 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3396 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3397 Ms. Schrier?

3398 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3399 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

3400 Mrs. Fletcher?

3401 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3402 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

3403 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3404 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

3405 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

3406 Mr. Auchincloss?

3407 [No response.]

3408 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

3409 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3410 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

3411 Chairman Latta?

3412 *Mr. Latta. No.

3413 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

3414 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members who did not

3415 answer the call who want to record their vote?

3416 Hearing none, the clerk will report the result of the

3417 roll.

3418 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 15

3419 ayes -- or, sorry, pardon.

3420 Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 13 ayes and 15

3421 noes.

3422 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to.

3423 *Ms. Castor. We are going to have a voice vote on the
3424 bill.

3425 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other amendments to the bill?

3426 Hearing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
3427 3628, as amended.

3428 All those in favor shall say -- signify by saying aye;
3429 those opposed, no.

3430 All those in favor, say aye.

3431 All those opposed, no.

3432 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

3433 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Florida, the
3434 ranking member of the subcommittee, seek recognition?

3435 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3436 Members, I would like to welcome to the Energy
3437 Subcommittee a group of scubanauts, students from Florida who
3438 are interested in careers in marine sciences.

3439 I am so sorry I couldn't meet with you in my office.
3440 You can -- but welcome to this committee, where we are
3441 debating energy policy for the country. And I am really
3442 excited to welcome you to the committee. Thank you for being
3443 here.

3444 *Mr. Latta. Welcome.

3445 The chair now calls up H.R. 3657, and asks the clerk to
3446 report.

3447 *The Clerk. H.R. 3657, a bill to amend the Federal
3448 Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
3449 to annually submit --

3450 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
3451 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3452 amendment at any point.

3453 So ordered.

3454 [The bill follows:]

3455

3456 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3457

3458 [Pause.]

3459 *Mr. Latta. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from
3460 Washington for five minutes.

3461 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3462 Well, as a member from the Pacific Northwest where
3463 hydropower makes up the majority of our energy mix, I am very
3464 proud to lead this effort to enhance transparency and help
3465 streamline the relicensing process with my colleague from
3466 Idaho, Representative Fulcher.

3467 This bill will support maintaining clean, abundant,
3468 affordable, non-emitting energy by transparently monitoring
3469 the status of the relicensing process for each application to
3470 relicense a power generating dam.

3471 Every 30 to 50 years, hydropower dams need to relicense
3472 their dams with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in
3473 order to continue operating a facility. And the relicensing
3474 process is typically very lengthy, and in part for very good
3475 reason. You want to make sure they are safe. The public
3476 comment period needs to be robust for all parties to weigh
3477 in. And frankly, without that input we risk either danger or
3478 potentially devastating environmental consequences on
3479 regional ecosystems.

3480 However, with relicensing activities set to double in
3481 the upcoming decade and the process still taking on average 7
3482 to 10 years to complete, there are crucial reforms needed to

3483 streamline relicensing without compromising that careful
3484 consideration. Otherwise, we could risk not having the power
3485 we need when we need it. This common-sense, bipartisan bill
3486 takes the first step by enhancing transparency and tracking
3487 progress on any given relicensing process for all parties
3488 involved.

3489 I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues
3490 on comprehensive, bipartisan relicensing reform, and I urge
3491 all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

3492 I yield back.

3493 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back, and the chair
3494 recognizes himself for five minutes to strike the last word
3495 on the bill.

3496 Hydropower is critical to our nation's energy mix,
3497 supplying power to approximately 30 million homes and
3498 businesses. While hydropower is well known as a clean energy
3499 source in areas like the Pacific Northwest, it is essential
3500 in powering communities across the country. Additionally,
3501 hydropower accounts for 40 percent of the nation's start
3502 capacity for grid recovery following a major disruption.

3503 Following the recent grid events in Spain, the
3504 importance of maintaining nearly half of our black start
3505 capacity could not be clearer. However, the average age of a
3506 hydropower facility in the United States is 60 years old.
3507 Therefore, hundreds of projects representing approximately 16

3508 megawatts of power will be up for relicensing between now and
3509 2035. Hydropower developers must go through an extensive
3510 permitting process in order to relicense ongoing projects.
3511 While this process is important for local community and
3512 stakeholder engagement, it is also -- it can also
3513 significantly increase the cost and timeline of relicensing
3514 these important energy sources. In a 2021 report, FERC found
3515 that the average length for the relicensing process was 7 to
3516 10 years. While some of this is due to applications
3517 containing greater environmental complexities, it can also be
3518 attributed to slow-walking by different agencies pulled into
3519 the project's review.

3520 To increase transparency surrounding the status of
3521 hydropower relicensing applications, H.R. 3657 would require
3522 an annual report from FERC to Congress detailing the status
3523 of projects that have filed a notice of intent to go through
3524 the relicensing. This will better inform Congress on the
3525 status of applications and highlight obstacles to the
3526 efficient permitting and deployment of hydropower projects.

3527 I thank the gentlelady from Washington and the gentleman
3528 from Idaho for their development on this legislation. It is
3529 imperative that projects are relicensed in a timely manner
3530 and -- to ensure clean and reliable hydropower dams remain
3531 online for years to come.

3532 And I yield back the balance of my time. Is there any

3533 further discussion?

3534 The gentlelady from California is recognized to strike
3535 the last word.

3536 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3537 *Mr. Latta. Five minutes.

3538 *Ms. Matsui. I move to strike the last word and speak
3539 in support of this bill.

3540 In Sacramento we get more than 20 percent of our
3541 electricity from hydropower. The majority of that comes from
3542 the Upper American River Project. Our local utility, the
3543 Sacramento Municipal Utility District, otherwise known as
3544 SMUD, recently completed the relicensing process for these
3545 hydropower facilities. It took nearly 14 years. That simply
3546 is not acceptable. We have to do things faster and more
3547 efficiently without sacrificing quality, and we can. But we
3548 have to be forward-looking. We cannot be doubling down on
3549 fossil fuels. Hydropower is essential to meeting our clean
3550 energy goals in California and across the country. We can
3551 and should reach a bipartisan agreement to reform hydropower
3552 licensing.

3553 I was disappointed last Congress when we had a
3554 bipartisan bill that industry, environmental groups, and
3555 tribes had all agreed on, but this committee refused to take
3556 it up. Instead, the committee wasted everyone's time with a
3557 dead-end, self-serving partisan bill that had no chance of

3558 becoming law. So I am really happy that we are taking a
3559 different course this Congress. I support this bill, and I
3560 hope it is a start to a serious hydropower reform discussion.

3561 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of
3562 my time.

3563 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back the
3564 balance of her time. Is there any further discussion on the
3565 bill?

3566 Are there any amendments?

3567 Hearing no amendments, you want a roll call?

3568 *Ms. Castor. We don't need a roll call. We can do this
3569 by voice vote.

3570 *Mr. Latta. If there is no further discussion, the vote
3571 occurs on the amendment. Or, I am sorry, if -- on -- the
3572 question now occurs on adopting H.R. 3657.

3573 All those in favor, say aye.

3574 Those opposed, no.

3575 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

3576 *Ms. Castor. Easiest one of the day.

3577 *Mr. Latta. The chair calls up H.R. 3015, and asks the
3578 clerk to report.

3579 *The Clerk. H.R. 3015, a bill to re-establish the
3580 National Coal Council and the Department of Energy to provide
3581 advice and recommendations --

3582 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the

3583 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3584 amendment at any point.

3585 So ordered.

3586 [The bill follows:]

3587

3588 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3589

3590 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
3591 bill?

3592 *Mr. Rulli. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
3593 word.

3594 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized to
3595 strike the last word for five minutes.

3596 *Mr. Rulli. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am so happy to
3597 see H.R. 3015 included today.

3598 The National Coal Council was established in 1984 by
3599 Ronald Reagan, tasked with assessing government and industry
3600 on coal research, production, transportation, marketing, and
3601 use. It worked great for over 35 years, produced over 40
3602 reports for the DoE for free. Presidents of both political
3603 parties renewed their charter without changing the mission.
3604 However, under the Biden Administration November of 2021 the
3605 Biden DoE did not renew the Council's charter for the first
3606 time in almost 40 years. The Biden Administration then
3607 revamped the committee's mission to align with the Green New
3608 Deal, which has been proven not to work.

3609 Economic and climate agendas were pursued. Under the
3610 Trump Administration, however, we signed an executive order
3611 titled, "Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal
3612 Industry" on April 8 of this year. Department of Energy
3613 Secretary Wright called for the National Coal Council's re-
3614 establishment that very same day. Secretary Wright said the

3615 American people need more energy. The Department of Energy
3616 is helping to meet this demand by unleashing supply of
3617 affordable, reliable, secure energy resources.

3618 All one has to do is look back two or three Christmases
3619 ago and realize that the American grid pretty much almost
3620 melted down. The coal plants in my district were asked to go
3621 to full capacity, and the energy was almost not met. Coal is
3622 essential for generation of 24/7 electricity generation that
3623 powers America's homes and businesses. But misguided
3624 policies from previous administrations have stifled this
3625 critical American industry.

3626 H.R. 3015 undoes misguided policy of the last
3627 administration by re-establishing the National Coal Council
3628 in accordance with the charter that was in effect November 19
3629 of 2021. I urge members to support H.R. 3015 so the National
3630 Coal Council can once again cement American energy dominance,
3631 increase domestic production, improve conditions for workers,
3632 strengthen the industry base, support hundreds of thousands
3633 of jobs, and stop the war on clean coal.

3634 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield.

3635 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
3636 discussion on the bill?

3637 The ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman
3638 from New Jersey, is recognized for five minutes to strike the
3639 last word.

3640 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
3641 in my opinion this bill is just a complete waste of time.
3642 Republicans want to re-establish the National Coal Council.
3643 Well, Secretary Wright re-established the National Coal
3644 Council on April 8, nearly 2 months ago. You know,
3645 congratulations. You got what you wanted. But why on Earth
3646 are we wasting everyone's time trying to pass this law?

3647 I mean, I think it is emblematic of the fact that
3648 Republicans are all about meaningless messaging. Republicans
3649 put this bill on the markup agenda, but they didn't put
3650 Ranking Member Castor's bill, Expediting Generation in
3651 Connection Procedures Act -- Ms. Castor's bill, unlike this
3652 bill, would have actually taken action to fix some of the
3653 problems that we have heard about this year.

3654 And less than six months into their majority,
3655 Republicans, in my opinion, are out of new ideas. Instead of
3656 actually attempting to come to durable, bipartisan solutions
3657 on policy, we are stuck here debating a bill about an
3658 advisory council that has already been re-established. It
3659 makes no sense.

3660 I mean, there are serious issues that need to be
3661 addressed by this subcommittee: finding ways to meet
3662 increasing demand for power, making electricity more reliable
3663 and cheaper for American families. Or what about
3664 reauthorizing pipeline safety, which is nearly two years

3665 overdue? And instead we are talking about a coal council
3666 that already exists. I just don't understand it.

3667 So I am opposed to this and I yield back.

3668 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. Is there any further
3669 discussion on the bill?

3670 The gentleman from Colorado is recognized to strike the
3671 last word for five minutes.

3672 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
3673 yield my time to the gentleman from Ohio.

3674 *Mr. Rulli. Thank you to the gentleman from Colorado.

3675 Just a little response to that. We are doing this
3676 because we want this actually cemented so it is permanent.
3677 We don't want a new administration to come and get rid of the
3678 coal industry and the Coal Council.

3679 But more importantly than that, I want to take note that
3680 the opposition party has celebrated industry that has
3681 developed brand new coal plants that have been taking place
3682 in Germany, India, Russia, and China. We are buying products
3683 and we are doing more commerce with those four countries that
3684 have celebrated new coal plants. So we just want to maintain
3685 our coal industry, our coal dominance in America.

3686 And with that I yield my time back to the gentleman from
3687 Colorado.

3688 *Mr. Evans. And I yield to the chair.

3689 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any

3690 further discussion on the bill?

3691 The chair recognizes the ranking member of the
3692 subcommittee, the gentlelady from Florida, for five minutes
3693 to strike the last word.

3694 *Ms. Castor. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I rise
3695 in opposition to this bill. It is another one in the conga
3696 line of bills in the package today that will really try to
3697 prop up some of the dirty, polluting power sources.

3698 And what really has pushed coal out of business is gas.
3699 I have watched at home, where Tampa Electric Company, they
3700 used to have coal-fired power plants. They have over time
3701 replaced those coal plants with gas, which is also very
3702 expensive. We shouldn't be so reliant in the Sunshine State
3703 on gas resources.

3704 But I just thought that this would be the moment where
3705 we could talk about the huge disconnect going on in the
3706 Energy Subcommittee, because we talk about how the
3707 Republicans -- all of your policy decisions are going to lead
3708 to higher electric bills. But there is a bigger picture
3709 here, and that is the fact that we are living in a climate
3710 crisis.

3711 The year 2024 was the hottest year on record. In fact,
3712 the past -- the 10 hottest years on record have all happened
3713 since 2015. I spoke earlier about the fact that my community
3714 is rebuilding from the two worst hurricanes that came back to

3715 back within two weeks in our history. It is very expensive.
3716 The climate crisis is also -- it is not just fueling higher
3717 electric bills because we have longer, hotter summers. It is
3718 fueling all of these higher costs relating to insurance and
3719 rebuilding, and just trying -- think about what is happening
3720 to working people outside with these incredibly, excessively
3721 hot days. It all has a cost.

3722 So when you all bring bills here that prop up dirty fuel
3723 sources to power America, what you are doing is you are
3724 asking us, yes, to pay higher electric bills, but you are
3725 missing the moment. You are abdicating the moral
3726 responsibility that we have to our communities, to our kids
3727 to tackle the heating climate.

3728 There are solutions. There are solutions. One was just
3729 brought and you rejected it, and that was simply to
3730 incorporate grid storage. All of the exciting work going on
3731 with advanced batteries so that we can answer your concern
3732 over intermittency of renewable sources. That is -- and
3733 Representative Peters explained that that is not how
3734 utilities are thinking of this today.

3735 This package of bills -- and this is a good example --
3736 throws a wrench again into cleaner, cheaper energy sources
3737 that, yes, are going to keep energy bills from spiking -- now
3738 you are going to own it -- but it also misses the urgency
3739 that Congress should be acting with to tackle the climate

3740 crisis. And we have solutions. And instead you look at our
3741 clean -- our historic clean energy law and you say, oh, look
3742 at all the power that is about to come onto the grid. We
3743 can't have that because the oil and gas industry and coal
3744 industry don't want it.

3745 Well, I would offer that it is time to act in the
3746 public's interest and not for the special interests anymore.
3747 Don't bury your head in the sand. Answer the moral
3748 obligation to -- that we have to our kids to ensure a livable
3749 future.

3750 And I yield back. Thank you.

3751 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
3752 there any further discussion on the bill?

3753 Seeing none, are there any amendments on the bill?

3754 Seeing none --

3755 *Ms. Castor. A roll call vote.

3756 *Mr. Latta. -- the chair -- the question now occurs on
3757 adopting H.R. 3015, and a roll call vote has been requested,
3758 and the clerk will take the roll.

3759 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

3760 *Mr. Weber. Yes, ma'am.

3761 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

3762 Mr. Palmer?

3763 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

3764 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3765 Mr. Allen?
3766 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3767 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3768 Mr. Balderson?
3769 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
3770 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3771 Mr. Pfluger?
3772 [No response.]
3773 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
3774 [No response.]
3775 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3776 [No response.]
3777 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
3778 [No response.]
3779 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3780 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
3781 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
3782 Mr. Fry?
3783 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
3784 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
3785 Ms. Lee?
3786 [No response.]
3787 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3788 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
3789 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

3790 Mr. Rulli?
3791 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3792 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3793 Mr. Evans?
3794 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
3795 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
3796 Mr. Goldman?
3797 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3798 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3799 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3800 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
3801 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
3802 Mr. Guthrie?
3803 *The Chair. Aye.
3804 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
3805 Ms. Castor?
3806 *Ms. Castor. No.
3807 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
3808 Mr. Peters?
3809 *Mr. Peters. No.
3810 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
3811 Mr. Menendez?
3812 *Mr. Menendez. No.
3813 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
3814 Mr. Mullin?

3815 *Mr. Mullin. No.
3816 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
3817 Ms. McClellan?
3818 *Ms. McClellan. No.
3819 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
3820 Ms. DeGette?
3821 *Ms. DeGette. No.
3822 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
3823 Ms. Matsui?
3824 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3825 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
3826 Mr. Tonko?
3827 *Mr. Tonko. No.
3828 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
3829 Mr. Veasey?
3830 *Mr. Veasey. No.
3831 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
3832 Ms. Schrier?
3833 *Ms. Schrier. No.
3834 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
3835 Mrs. Fletcher?
3836 [No response.]
3837 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?
3838 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
3839 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

3840 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3841 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

3842 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

3843 Mr. Auchincloss?

3844 [No response.]

3845 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

3846 *Mr. Pallone. No.

3847 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

3848 Chairman Latta?

3849 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3850 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.

3851 *Mr. Latta. And how is the gentleman from Texas's 11th

3852 district reported?

3853 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not reported.

3854 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.

3855 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

3856 *Mr. James. How is James recorded?

3857 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.

3858 *Mr. James. James votes aye.

3859 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

3860 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the roll.

3861 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there are 15

3862 ayes and 13 noes.

3863 *Mr. Latta. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.

3864 The chair calls up H.R. 3617 and calls the clerk to

3865 report.

3866 *The Clerk. H.R. 3617, a bill to amend the Department
3867 of Energy Organization Act to secure the supply --

3868 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
3869 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3870 amendment at any point.

3871 So ordered.

3872 [The bill follows:]

3873

3874 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3875

3876 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
3877 bill?

3878 *Mr. James. Mr. Chairman?

3879 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from
3880 Michigan seek recognition?

3881 *Mr. James. Mr. Chairman, I seek recognition to speak
3882 favorably for my bill.

3883 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman has -- is recognized for five
3884 minutes to speak on the bill.

3885 *Mr. James. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3886 Today we have an opportunity to advance a transformative
3887 vision for our nation's energy future through my Securing
3888 America's Critical Minerals Supply Act. This bill is a bold
3889 step toward ensuring the United States leads in energy
3890 innovation, security, and independence.

3891 The security -- the Securing America's Critical Minerals
3892 Supply Act redefines "critical energy resource" to empower
3893 the Department of Energy with a clear mandate to secure the
3894 supply of minerals essential to our energy sector. This bill
3895 could not come at a more crucial time for our country, and I
3896 am thrilled to see that this committee is taking this issue
3897 seriously and acting.

3898 China currently controls over 80 percent of global rare
3899 Earth refining capacity, and Russia has about 44 percent of
3900 the world's uranium enrichment capacity, supplying some of

3901 the 35 percent of U.S. imports for nuclear fuel, according to
3902 the Department of Energy. If we are serious about having an
3903 all-of-the-above energy approach, we must find a way to
3904 produce these critical energy minerals domestically. My bill
3905 puts us one step closer to doing that.

3906 My legislation directs the DoE to conduct ongoing
3907 assessments of supply chain vulnerabilities, develop
3908 strategies to strengthen domestic production, and invest in
3909 innovative technologies. It equips our nation to counter
3910 anti-competitive tactics and human rights abuses in global
3911 markets, ensuring America's energy systems are resilient,
3912 self-reliant, and humane.

3913 This is about unleashing American energy, powering our
3914 factories, fueling innovation, and securing our future. The
3915 Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act is a
3916 cornerstone for reshoring manufacturing, reducing dependence
3917 on foreign dictators and despots, and building an energy
3918 independent America. I urge my colleagues to support this
3919 bill and unleash the full potential of America's energy.

3920 With that, Mr. chairman, I yield.

3921 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
3922 back. Is there any further discussion on the bill?

3923 The gentlelady, the ranking member from Florida, is
3924 recognized for five minutes to strike the last word.

3925 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike

3926 the last word and speak in opposition to H.R. 3617.

3927 I think we all agree that critical minerals policy is
3928 very important. It is an important topic for this committee
3929 in particular. We have to do more to secure our critical
3930 mineral supply chains through a whole combination of domestic
3931 production, recycling, and partnerships with our friends and
3932 allies across the world.

3933 Unfortunately, with the -- as with so many other bills
3934 today, this legislation fails to meet the moment. It does
3935 nothing to strengthen our critical minerals supply chain,
3936 nothing to make us more safe, nothing to lower energy costs
3937 for working families across the country. And it is really a
3938 shallow attempt to demonstrate that maybe the committee is
3939 doing something.

3940 But one of the things that really disturbs me is you
3941 have ignored all of the good, bipartisan work that has gone
3942 on across the Congress over the past couple of years. For
3943 example, the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition
3944 with the Chinese Communist Party, we had a whole working
3945 group, and Congressman Rob Wittman and I and the whole
3946 committee advanced suggestions, recommendations, and I don't
3947 see any of that reflected in this legislation. At that
3948 committee we heard from academic researchers, large mining
3949 companies, innovative startups, labor leaders, and they --
3950 that culminated in some good, bipartisan legislation.

3951 We heard repeatedly that one key area in which the U.S.
3952 has fallen behind is in processing. China holds the dominant
3953 position in processing for many essential minerals, including
3954 65 percent of the lithium, 74 percent of cobalt, 42 percent
3955 of copper, and 100 percent of graphite. And as this
3956 committee hopefully learned during the O&I hearing last
3957 month, processing is squarely in our jurisdiction. So we
3958 need to really hammer out some truly productive, constructive
3959 legislation here.

3960 But this bill, unfortunately, fails to get there. It
3961 proposes to make very minor organizational changes at the
3962 Department of Energy, which is an agency that was making
3963 significant progress over the past few years. In the past
3964 four years alone we saw companies announce more than \$120
3965 billion in investments in battery and critical mineral supply
3966 chains, from mining to manufacturing to recycling.

3967 It kind of goes back to the point that was made by
3968 Congresswomen McClellan and Ocasio-Cortez and Schrier and
3969 others that you want to pretend like you are doing something
3970 on a topic, but you totally bury your head in the sand to the
3971 DOGE cuts, the chainsaw that has been taken to our experts at
3972 the agencies. The Trump Administration has poked our friends
3973 and allies across the world in the eye at a time when we need
3974 to be working together to shore up these supply chains.

3975 That DoE work was happening through grants, loans, tax

3976 credits that were funded by the infrastructure Bipartisan
3977 Infrastructure Law and the IRA. In 2021 the U.S. had enough
3978 battery manufacturing capacity to power over 500,000 electric
3979 vehicles, as of the beginning of this year announced battery
3980 gigafactories would have powered 10 million EVs. So after
3981 ceding ground to China for many years, we were finally
3982 starting to win, protecting our industrial base, creating
3983 good-paying jobs, strengthening our national security and our
3984 energy security. But since January you are kind of ceding
3985 that, ceding that progress to China. You -- everything that
3986 is happening together is sabotaging these efforts.

3987 So I would really -- you are not going to fool anyone
3988 with a bill like this that is a distraction or a shiny object
3989 because damage is being done right now. And we have to get
3990 back to countering China and investing in our industrial
3991 base. Congress created the DoE's Office of Manufacturing and
3992 Energy Supply Chains. We have appropriated funds for battery
3993 materials processing, manufacturing, recycling. But you have
3994 just let it wither on the vine and let the chainsaw approach
3995 win the day, and that is not going to -- that is not a
3996 winning combination for this country. It is not a winning
3997 combination for consumers who want lower cost and innovation.
3998 I believe this committee can do meaningful work and we should
3999 get back to that.

4000 I yield back my time.

4001 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
4002 further discussion on the bill?

4003 Hearing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

4004 Hearing none. the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
4005 3617 --

4006 *Ms. Castor. Voice vote.

4007 *Mr. Latta. Oh, yes -- 3617.

4008 All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

4009 Those opposed, no.

4010 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

4011 The chair calls up H.R. 3109, and asks the clerk to
4012 report.

4013 *The Clerk. H.R. 3109, a bill to require the Secretary
4014 of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a
4015 report with respect --

4016 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
4017 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4018 amendment at any point.

4019 So ordered.

4020 [The bill follows:]

4021

4022 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4023

4024 *Mr. Latta. And I will recognize myself for five
4025 minutes to speak in support of my legislation, H.R. 3109, the
4026 REFINER Act.

4027 Over the last several years the United States' refining
4028 capacity has shrunk. While some of this capacity loss has
4029 been due to external factors, state and sometimes Federal
4030 policies have made it more and more difficult to operate
4031 within certain jurisdictions. This is not a new problem.
4032 Our nation's last major U.S. refinery was built in 1977,
4033 nearly 50 years ago. But since then our refining capacity is
4034 running on empty. Not only has this increased the price at
4035 the pump during the peak demand seasons, but it also has
4036 increased fuel dependency on Asian countries for areas like
4037 the West Coast that are supply constrained. This increasing
4038 dependance runs counter to the policy goals of this
4039 Administration and the needs of our country.

4040 My legislation, the Researching Efficient Federal
4041 Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining, the REFINER Act,
4042 will help increase energy refining capacity in the United
4043 States. This simple legislation requires the collection of
4044 critical information including identifying factors leading to
4045 low refining capacity. With that information the National
4046 Petroleum Council would submit a report to the Secretary of
4047 Energy and Congress presenting recommendations to expand
4048 refining capacity to ensure an abundance of affordable and

4049 reliable energy in the United States.

4050 While I am disappointed none of my Democratic colleagues
4051 joined me in introducing the legislation, it is important to
4052 note that this bill has historically been supported and
4053 passed through this committee on a bipartisan basis.

4054 Simply put, we need more refining capacity in this
4055 country, and my legislation helps with that effort. And I
4056 urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

4057 And I yield back the balance of my time. And are there
4058 any other members seeking recognition to speak on the bill?

4059 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

4060 Seeing none, the question now is on -- now occurs on
4061 adopting H.R. 3109.

4062 All those in favor, say aye.

4063 Those opposed, no.

4064 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

4065 The chair calls up H.R. 3062, and asks the clerk to
4066 report.

4067 *The Clerk. H.R. 3062, a bill to establish a more
4068 uniform, transparent, and modern process --

4069 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
4070 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4071 amendment at any point.

4072 So ordered.

4073

4074 [The bill follows:]

4075

4076 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4077

4078 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?
4079 For what purpose does the gentlelady from North Carolina
4080 seek recognition?

4081 *Voice. North Dakota.

4082 *Mr. Latta. North Dakota, I am sorry, North Dakota seek
4083 recognition.

4084 *Mrs. Fedorchak. I would like to offer an amendment in
4085 the nature of substitute for H.R. 3062.

4086 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
4087 minutes to speak on the AINS.

4088 *Voice. She has got to call it.

4089 *Mr. Latta. Oh, I am sorry. Would the clerk report?

4090 *The Clerk. Would the gentlelady please specify the
4091 amendment?

4092 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Sure. This amendment is at the desk,
4093 and it is titled H3062-SCANS-01.

4094 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
4095 H.R. 3062, offered by Mrs. Fedorchak. Strike all after the
4096 enacting clause --

4097 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
4098 amendment is dispensed with.

4099 [The amendment of Mrs. Fedorchak follows:]

4100

4101 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4102

4103 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady from North Dakota is
4104 recognized for five minutes in support of the AINS.

4105 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud
4106 to speak today in support of one of my legislative and
4107 budgetary priorities, the Promoting Cross-Border Energy
4108 Infrastructure Act, which is included in this package today.

4109 For far too long, energy developers have faced an
4110 outdated and unpredictable permitting process that has
4111 delayed and even canceled critical infrastructure projects,
4112 costing taxpayers millions of dollars and weakening American
4113 energy security. Right now, if you want to build a pipeline
4114 or transmission line between the U.S. and Canada or the U.S.
4115 and Mexico, you are stuck navigating a patchwork of executive
4116 orders, undefined agency processes, and shifting political
4117 winds. That is no way to build long-term energy
4118 infrastructure and increase revenue.

4119 We need a cross-border permitting process that increases
4120 revenue, provides certainty, and can't be undone with the
4121 stroke of a pen. We all remember the Keystone XL pipeline,
4122 one permit approved by President Trump in 2017 and then
4123 reversed on day 1 in the Biden Administration. With that
4124 single decision, thousands of good-paying jobs were lost,
4125 many in my state of North Dakota. Keystone XL was said to
4126 carry 100,000 barrels of Bakken oil per day. That would have
4127 meant real opportunity for North Dakota communities, more

4128 jobs, more tax revenue, and more energy produced right here
4129 at home and transported by pipelines, not rail or truck.

4130 This legislation will help fix this problem. It
4131 requires congressional approval to reverse a cross-border
4132 project. No more unilateral decisions based on politics.
4133 Instead of relying on Presidential permits, we also establish
4134 a certificate of crossing, a clear statutory process overseen
4135 by FERC for oil and gas and DoE for electricity. It puts
4136 experts in charge of reviewing these projects. It sets firm
4137 timelines and provides the regulatory certainty developers
4138 need to invest, hire, and build.

4139 We are trying to modernize an outdated system that
4140 doesn't reflect the complexity or importance of today's
4141 energy networks. This legislation strengthens America's role
4142 as a global energy leader. It supports job creation,
4143 economic growth, and the reliable, affordable energy that
4144 families, farmers, and businesses across this country depend
4145 on. I urge my colleagues to support this provision and stand
4146 with American energy and American workers.

4147 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4148 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentlelady yields
4149 back. Is there a discussion on the AINS?

4150 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
4151 recognition?

4152 *Mr. Menendez. To speak on the AINS.

4153 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
4154 minutes to strike the last word.

4155 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you. I believe my colleague from
4156 North Dakota just mentioned that the purpose of this bill is
4157 to ensure that we don't make unilateral decisions based on
4158 politics. But I think that is what we have done and what the
4159 majority has done this entire Congress, what the
4160 Administration has done with respect to offshore wind
4161 projects throughout the country, with respect to tax credits
4162 for clean, renewable energy.

4163 So if the purpose of this bill is to make sure that any
4164 administration or any party isn't making unilateral decisions
4165 based on politics, then I would expect the majority to be
4166 opposed to what the Administration is doing when they unwind
4167 things at the previous administration has done that is based
4168 solely on politics. And what I think so many of us here on
4169 this side are looking for is consistency from the majority
4170 party, which so far on this hearing and this entire Congress
4171 they have failed to do.

4172 With that I yield back.

4173 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
4174 there any further discussion?

4175 The gentleman from Texas's 33rd district is recognized
4176 for five minutes to strike the last word.

4177 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

4178 desk labeled AMD_HR3062_35.

4179 *The Clerk. Could the gentleman please repeat the
4180 amendment?

4181 *Mr. Veasey. It is AMD_HR3062_35.

4182 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4183 a substitute to H.R. --

4184 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

4185 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4186 a substitute to H.R. 3062, offered by Mr. Veasey. Page 5,
4187 after line 7 --

4188 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
4189 amendment is dispensed with.

4190 [The amendment of Mr. Veasey follows:]

4191

4192 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4193

4194 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman is recognized for five
4195 minutes in support of his amendment.

4196 *Mr. Veasey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and this
4197 amendment is very simple. All it does is clarify that
4198 nothing in the bill impacts the scope of any environmental
4199 review required under NEPA for a cross-border energy project.

4200 This amendment, as you know, was passed by the House on
4201 a voice vote in 2017 when it was offered by Gene Green, a
4202 former member of this committee from Houston. And at the
4203 time when it was offered, not even our dear friend, Markwayne
4204 Mullin that is now in the Senate, had anything negative to
4205 say about this amendment. I now understand that there are
4206 Republicans that will say it is unnecessary and that nothing
4207 in the underlying bill impacts the scope of environmental
4208 reviews, but the question then becomes why do they remove
4209 this language from a bill that passed in a bipartisan manner
4210 literally just a few years ago?

4211 I wholeheartedly believe we can find a bipartisan,
4212 durable permitting reform avenue, but we have to start
4213 somewhere. I am a huge believer that we can do something
4214 about permitting reform. I also think that it can start
4215 here, and with a simple amendment to ensure we are not short-
4216 cutting important environmental protections.

4217 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4218 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much.

4219 The gentleman yields back, and the chair recognizes the
4220 gentlelady from North Dakota.

4221 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you.

4222 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentlelady seek
4223 recognition?

4224 *Mrs. Fedorchak. I move to strike the last word.

4225 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
4226 minutes to strike the last word.

4227 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, and with all due respect to
4228 my colleague from Texas I would like to speak in opposition
4229 to this amendment.

4230 This amendment is unnecessary and duplicative. The
4231 underlying legislation does not change any environmental law
4232 that agencies must follow in issuing certificates for cross-
4233 border electric transmission or oil and gas facilities.

4234 Let me be abundantly clear. The underlying legislation
4235 does nothing to alter the environmental review of these
4236 projects. This amendment is simply a messaging exercise and
4237 does not functionally change the underlying legislation. So
4238 I urge a no on this amendment, and I yield back.

4239 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
4240 further discussion on the amendment?

4241 Hearing none, a roll call vote has been requested on the
4242 amendment. The clerk will call the roll.

4243 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

4244 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
4245 *Mr. Palmer. Aye. No.
4246 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
4247 Mr. Allen?
4248 [No response.]
4249 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
4250 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4251 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4252 Mr. Pfluger?
4253 [No response.]
4254 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4255 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4256 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4257 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4258 [No response.]
4259 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
4260 *Mr. James. No.
4261 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4262 Mr. Bentz?
4263 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4264 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4265 Mr. Fry?
4266 *Mr. Fry. No.
4267 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4268 Ms. Lee?

4269 [No response.]

4270 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

4271 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

4272 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

4273 Mr. Rulli?

4274 *Mr. Rulli. No.

4275 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

4276 Mr. Evans?

4277 *Mr. Evans. No.

4278 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

4279 Mr. Goldman?

4280 *Mr. Goldman. No.

4281 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

4282 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4283 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

4284 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

4285 Mr. Guthrie?

4286 *The Chair. No.

4287 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

4288 Ms. Castor?

4289 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

4290 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

4291 Mr. Peters?

4292 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4293 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

4294 Mr. Menendez?
4295 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4296 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4297 Mr. Mullin?
4298 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4299 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4300 Ms. McClellan?
4301 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4302 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4303 Ms. DeGette?
4304 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4305 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4306 Ms. Matsui?
4307 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4308 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4309 Mr. Tonko?
4310 [No response.]
4311 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
4312 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4313 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4314 Ms. Schrier?
4315 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4316 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4317 Mrs. Fletcher?
4318 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

4319 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4320 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4321 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4322 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4323 Mr. Auchincloss?
4324 [No response.]
4325 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
4326 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4327 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4328 Chairman Latta?
4329 *Mr. Latta. No.
4330 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.
4331 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the --
4332 *Voice. No, no, no, no.
4333 *Mr. Latta. Oh, I am sorry.
4334 *Voice. Mr. Weber.
4335 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry. Do we have some --
4336 *Voice. Yes, we do.
4337 *Mr. Latta. -- members that have not reported?
4338 *Mr. Weber. How is Weber recorded?
4339 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
4340 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes no.
4341 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman --
4342 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Weber votes no.
4343 *Mr. Allen. How is Allen recorded?

4344 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.
4345 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
4346 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Texas --
4347 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
4348 *Mr. Pfluger. Pfluger?
4349 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.
4350 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4351 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
4352 *Mr. Latta. Everybody?
4353 *Voice. I think everybody is here.
4354 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be
4355 recorded?
4356 Hearing none, the clerk will report the result of the
4357 roll.
4358 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 12
4359 ayes and 16 noes.
4360 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
4361 further amendments?
4362 Hearing none, the vote now will occur on the AINS.
4363 All those in favor will signify by saying aye.
4364 All opposed, nay.
4365 The ayes have it, and the AINS is agreed to. Is there
4366 any further discussion?
4367 The question now calls on adopting H.R. 3062, as
4368 amended, and a roll call vote has been requested, and the

4369 clerk will call the roll.

4370 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

4371 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

4372 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

4373 Mr. Palmer?

4374 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

4375 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

4376 Mr. Allen?

4377 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

4378 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

4379 Mr. Balderson?

4380 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

4381 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

4382 Mr. Pfluger?

4383 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

4384 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

4385 Mrs. Harshbarger?

4386 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

4387 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

4388 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

4389 [No response.]

4390 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

4391 *Mr. James. Aye.

4392 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

4393 Mr. Bentz?

4394 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
4395 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
4396 Mr. Fry?
4397 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
4398 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
4399 Ms. Lee?
4400 [No response.]
4401 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
4402 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
4403 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
4404 Mr. Rulli?
4405 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
4406 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
4407 Mr. Evans?
4408 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
4409 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
4410 Mr. Goldman?
4411 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
4412 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
4413 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4414 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
4415 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
4416 Mr. Guthrie?
4417 *The Chair. Aye.
4418 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

4419 Ms. Castor?
4420 [No response.]
4421 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
4422 *Mr. Peters. No.
4423 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
4424 Mr. Menendez?
4425 *Mr. Menendez. No.
4426 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
4427 Mr. Mullin?
4428 *Mr. Mullin. No.
4429 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
4430 Ms. McClellan?
4431 [No response.]
4432 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?
4433 *Ms. DeGette. No.
4434 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
4435 Ms. Matsui?
4436 *Ms. Matsui. No.
4437 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
4438 Mr. Tonko?
4439 *Mr. Tonko. No.
4440 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
4441 Mr. Veasey?
4442 *Mr. Veasey. No.
4443 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

4444 Ms. Schrier?

4445 *Ms. Schrier. No.

4446 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

4447 Mrs. Fletcher?

4448 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

4449 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

4450 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

4451 [No response.]

4452 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

4453 [No response.]

4454 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

4455 *Mr. Pallone. No.

4456 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

4457 Chairman Latta?

4458 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

4459 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.

4460 *Mr. Latta. Are there -- and how is the gentlelady from

4461 Florida, the ranking member of the subcommittee, recorded?

4462 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor is not recorded.

4463 *Ms. Castor. No.

4464 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

4465 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady from New York's 14th

4466 district?

4467 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is not recorded.

4468 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

4469 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

4470 *Ms. McClellan. McClellan?

4471 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan is not recorded.

4472 *Ms. McClellan. No.

4473 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

4474 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to
4475 record their vote?

4476 Hearing none, the clerk will report the roll.

4477 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 16
4478 ayes and 13 noes.

4479 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The ayes have it, and
4480 the bill is adopted.

4481 The chair calls up H.R. 1949, and asks the clerk to
4482 report.

4483 *The Clerk. 1949, a bill to repeal restrictions on the
4484 export and import of natural gas. Be it enacted --

4485 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
4486 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4487 amendment at any point.

4488 So ordered.

4489 [The bill follows:]

4490

4491 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4492

4493 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
4494 bill?

4495 And for what purpose does the gentleman from Texas's
4496 11th district seek recognition?

4497 *Mr. Pfluger. To speak in favor of the bill.

4498 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
4499 minutes to speak on the bill.

4500 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4501 H.R. 1949, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, is
4502 common sense. And when you look at section 3 of the Natural
4503 Gas Act, it requires that natural gas exports to countries
4504 that have a free trade agreement with the United States be
4505 approved without delay. And for countries that do not have a
4506 free trade agreement with the U.S., the Energy Secretary is
4507 required to approve export requests unless they find that
4508 such exports will not be consistent with the public interest.
4509 Therefore, the Natural Gas Act includes a rebuttable
4510 presumption in favor of authorizing U.S. LNG exports.

4511 In early 2024, after succumbing to political pressure
4512 from environmental activists, the previous administration
4513 announced a ban on issuing export permits to non-FTA
4514 countries while it reviewed the climate impacts of U.S. LNG.
4515 And during this ban America's energy dominance took a major
4516 hit. Russia overtook the U.S. as the lead gas supplier to
4517 Europe. Long-term American contracts were not only

4518 jeopardized, but they were actually damaged, some of them
4519 irreparably. And global buyers were forced to look towards
4520 less clean sources. Thankfully, the Trump Administration
4521 quickly reversed this ban, and just last week DoE issued its
4522 first LNG export approval.

4523 My legislation is simple. The Unlocking Our Domestic
4524 LNG Potential Act would ensure that a ban is never placed on
4525 U.S. LNG exports again. By removing DoE from the process,
4526 export restrictions would be repealed and LNG exports would
4527 have equal treatment with other commodities.

4528 LNG exports unequivocally benefit our economy, domestic
4529 prices, our security, and partners and allies around the
4530 world that want our product. Congress needs to act to remove
4531 the politics from these exports, just as this committee did
4532 when it lifted the crude oil export ban in 2015. The IEA
4533 expects global gas demand to reach record highs in the coming
4534 years, underscoring the need for new LNG supply. And it must
4535 be the United States, not Iran, not Russia, not any other
4536 adversary who meets this demand and supplies affordable,
4537 clean, and abundant LNG to the world.

4538 I urge my colleagues to support this very common-sense
4539 legislation and to vote in favor of H.R. 1949.

4540 I yield back.

4541 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
4542 there discussion on the bill?

4543 The chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey, the
4544 ranking member of the full committee, for five minutes.

4545 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
4546 desk labeled AMD_HR1949_31.

4547 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report, and I will reserve a
4548 point of order.

4549 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1949, offered by Mr.
4550 Pallone. At the end, the following. Section 3, Fighting
4551 Corruption. This Act and the amendments made by this Act --

4552 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry, without objection the reading
4553 of the amendment is dispensed with, and the gentleman is
4554 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

4555 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4556 My amendment is straightforward. It says that the bill
4557 cannot go into effect until the Department of Energy
4558 inspector general submits a report on the risk of corruption
4559 and pay-to-play politics that would arise were the Department
4560 of Energy to charge a \$1 million fee to instantly declare any
4561 export of LNG in the public interest.

4562 Now, I understand that the million dollar fee is in the
4563 Republican big, ugly bill, and that this legislation today
4564 would just get rid of the public interest requirement. But
4565 the point is that the department obviously could, under the
4566 reconciliation bill, you know, charge that \$1 million fee.
4567 And, you know, to me, this is the ultimate in pay to play.

4568 The reconciliation bill was passed in the dead of night.
4569 We were in this room, everyone knows, for over 24 hours
4570 debating. And that bill says as long as you pay \$1 million,
4571 your application -- and I quote -- shall be deemed to be in
4572 the public interest, and such an application shall be granted
4573 without modification or delay. And that is a direct quote
4574 from the bill that I actually cited that night.

4575 And I just think this is crazy. If you want to export
4576 unlimited amounts of LNG to China to help them power AI data
4577 centers but are worried that the Department of Energy won't
4578 declare that in the public interest, well, you just pay \$1
4579 million. Of course, the gentleman's bill here goes even
4580 further and says we are not even going to look at the public
4581 interest. The reconciliation bill says that the fee, the
4582 paying of the million dollars, satisfies the public interest.
4583 In any case, the whole purpose of both the legislation and
4584 the reconciliation bill is to get rid of the public interest
4585 requirement.

4586 And I have never seen anything like this. You know,
4587 there is no longer any public interest review. And, you
4588 know, it really gets bad when you apply this to the LNG
4589 exports. As Republicans are trying to make it clear in their
4590 bill before us today, the preferred -- their preferred energy
4591 policy is one where we build fleets of new gas turbines to
4592 meet all future power demands, but they also want to send

4593 unlimited amounts of natural gas overseas so our competitors
4594 can use the gas. And that is, in my opinion, a disastrous
4595 recipe to make electricity prices skyrocket. And the
4596 Republicans want to let big oil and gas pay the Department of
4597 Energy a million bucks to make it turn its head the other way
4598 or just not have it at all.

4599 So, as I said before that night and now, the strategy
4600 here is so craven. They are trying to move the bills before
4601 us today, whether through reconciliation or through this
4602 bill. And I think there is a real possibility of corruption
4603 with the million-dollar fee in reconciliation, but there is
4604 also the real possibility now that there is no analysis at
4605 all of the public interest, and all of that is in order to
4606 export more gas, which we have had testimony before this
4607 subcommittee on several occasions now saying it is going to
4608 increase the price for Americans.

4609 And for all these reasons I oppose not only this bill,
4610 but also the very idea that the public interest should just
4611 be ignored or should -- you should pay to get rid of your
4612 problem with the public interest. If you want to fight back
4613 against pay to play, you should support my amendment before
4614 it is too late and Republicans have completely sold off the
4615 public interest.

4616 So I urge support and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4617 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there

4618 further discussion on the amendment?

4619 The gentleman from Texas's 33rd district is recognized.

4620 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, you know, my biggest concern
4621 with this -- and I hope that the gentleman, my friend from
4622 west Texas, will have a chance to talk a little bit about
4623 this -- but some of the points that the ranking member just
4624 brought up -- my biggest concern, and I have always been a
4625 huge proponent of LNG. Obviously, it has made a huge
4626 difference in helping Ukraine push back against Russia's
4627 unlawful invasion, and also helped the rest of Europe during
4628 that -- during the time that they find themselves in during
4629 this unlawful invasion.

4630 But the part that worries me about the safeguards to
4631 prevent the LNG from going to these foreign entities of
4632 concern is -- you know, the -- yesterday the President issued
4633 a travel ban that I don't agree with. But one of those
4634 countries that was mentioned in the travel ban was Iran. And
4635 I am trying to figure out why we wouldn't put in safeguards
4636 to stop LNG from going to someplace like Iran, and why there
4637 is nothing in the bill to address -- or this amendment to
4638 address any of that. So that is the biggest concern that I
4639 have.

4640 Like I said, I am a big proponent of LNG, but don't
4641 understand why we would rush to allow entities of concern to
4642 have American LNG.

4643 I yield back.

4644 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back the balance of
4645 his time. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

4646 *Mr. Pfluger. Just to clear up the point -- thank you,
4647 Mr. Chairman -- this has nothing to --

4648 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
4649 minutes --

4650 *Mr. Pfluger. Oh, thank you --

4651 *Mr. Latta. -- to strike the last word.

4652 *Mr. Pfluger. Just breaking protocol. Sorry about
4653 that, Mr. Chairman.

4654 Just to clarify for my colleague from Texas, I mean,
4655 this bill is very specific on countries of concern, entities
4656 of concern, which goes back to statute, and has countries
4657 like Iran and other countries that we would be concerned
4658 about as excluded. But when we are talking about non-free
4659 trade agreement countries, there is only a handful of free
4660 trade agreement countries in general. Most of our NATO
4661 allies -- in fact, over 80 percent of them -- are not free
4662 trade agreement countries.

4663 So I just want to make that point, that it is assumed in
4664 that statute -- we are not disregarding -- there is no
4665 disregarding of any sort of public interest. The statute is
4666 very clear that it is assumed that it is in the public
4667 interest, which we have done for all other commodities, as

4668 well.

4669 And just getting to the point of efficiencies, we
4670 probably wouldn't be here had we not had a politically-
4671 motivated banning and exclusion on exporting LNG in the
4672 previous administration. But we are here, and we want to
4673 make sure that we cannot ever get to this point again.

4674 And to the point of higher prices, that is not true, and
4675 we have had multiple people who have testified in front of
4676 this committee who have talked about the supply and demand
4677 forces of LNG. And whether it is produced in the Marcellus
4678 or the Permian or the Bakken, different production areas, we
4679 know that those supply and demand forces actually will lower
4680 prices, which many studies have shown us. And those folks
4681 have testified in front of this committee.

4682 But this amendment has nothing to do with the substance
4683 of H.R. 1949. And H.R. 1949 repeals the restrictions and
4684 prevents the political pausation that we saw. But FERC will
4685 continue reviewing and authorizing LNG export applications
4686 pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. So those are
4687 the facts. And not only that, but it goes through a rigorous
4688 review process, including an environmental process, as well.

4689 So I don't see that -- I really don't even know that
4690 this amendment is germane to this bill, to be honest, Mr.
4691 Chairman, but I will let you make that decision. I urge a no
4692 vote on this amendment.

4693 I yield back.

4694 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. Is there any further discussion
4695 on the amendment?

4696 *Ms. Castor. The Pallone amendment.

4697 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

4698 *Ms. Castor. A roll call on the Pallone --

4699 *Mr. Latta. With no further discussion on the
4700 amendment, a roll call has been requested on the amendment.
4701 The clerk will take the roll.

4702 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

4703 [No response.]

4704 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

4705 [No response.]

4706 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

4707 *Mr. Allen. No.

4708 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

4709 Mr. Balderson?

4710 *Mr. Balderson. No.

4711 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

4712 Mr. Pfluger?

4713 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

4714 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

4715 Mrs. Harshbarger?

4716 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

4717 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

4718 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4719 [No response.]
4720 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
4721 [No response.]
4722 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
4723 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4724 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4725 Mr. Fry?
4726 *Mr. Fry. No.
4727 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4728 Ms. Lee?
4729 [No response.]
4730 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
4731 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4732 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4733 Mr. Rulli?
4734 *Mr. Rulli. No.
4735 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
4736 Mr. Evans?
4737 *Mr. Evans. No.
4738 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
4739 Mr. Goldman?
4740 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4741 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4742 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4743 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4744 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4745 Mr. Guthrie?
4746 *The Chair. No.
4747 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
4748 Ms. Castor?
4749 [No response.]
4750 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?
4751 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4752 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4753 Mr. Peters?
4754 [No response.]
4755 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
4756 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4757 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4758 Mr. Mullin?
4759 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4760 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4761 Ms. McClellan?
4762 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4763 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4764 Ms. DeGette?
4765 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4766 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4767 Ms. Matsui?

4768 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4769 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4770 Mr. Tonko?
4771 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4772 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4773 Mr. Veasey?
4774 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4775 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4776 Ms. Schrier?
4777 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4778 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4779 Mrs. Fletcher?
4780 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4781 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4782 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4783 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4784 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4785 Mr. Auchincloss?
4786 [No response.]
4787 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
4788 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4789 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4790 Chairman Latta?
4791 *Mr. Latta. No.
4792 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

4793 *Mr. Latta. And we have members wishing -- may respond
4794 to the roll. The gentleman from Alabama.

4795 *Mr. Palmer. No.

4796 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

4797 *Mr. Latta. Do we have other members wishing to
4798 respond?

4799 The gentleman, the vice chair of the subcommittee, the
4800 gentleman from Texas.

4801 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes no.

4802 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

4803 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Michigan.

4804 *Mr. James. Mr. James votes no.

4805 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

4806 *Mr. Latta. Are any other members wishing to respond to
4807 the roll?

4808 Hearing none, the clerk will report the result.

4809 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 12
4810 ayes and 16 noes.

4811 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
4812 further amendments?

4813 For what purpose does the gentleman from California's
4814 15th district seek --

4815 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
4816 amendment at the desk labeled AMD_HR1949_12.

4817 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

4818 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1949, offered by Mr.
4819 Mullin. Strike page 1 --

4820 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
4821 amendment is dispensed with.

4822 [The amendment of Mr. Mullin follows:]

4823

4824 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4825

4826 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman is recognized for five
4827 minutes in support of the amendment.

4828 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4829 Right now, before American companies can export
4830 liquefied natural gas the Department of Energy has to find
4831 that those exports are in the public's interest. But this
4832 bill would completely eliminate that requirement.

4833 My amendment is simple. It would restore the public
4834 interest determination for exports to China, Iran, North
4835 Korea, Russia, and any other sanctioned nation. We have
4836 heard time and again in this subcommittee that we are in an
4837 AI race with China. But one of the most important elements
4838 of that race is the ability to power the data centers used to
4839 train and use AI. So if it is strategically important for us
4840 to beat China in this race, why would we send fuel to China
4841 or another competitor for electricity, especially without
4842 first checking if it is in the public's interest?

4843 I am not a fan of unlimited LNG exports no matter where
4844 in the world they go because it will make energy bills more
4845 expensive for everyday Americans. But I understand my
4846 Republican friends have the majority and have a different
4847 perspective, so I am hoping we can settle on a bipartisan
4848 compromise making sure we examine whether it is in the
4849 public's interest to send American LNG to foreign
4850 competitors.

4851 And by the way, this isn't a hypothetical concern.
4852 China is the world's largest importer of LNG, and natural gas
4853 is powering their entire economy. American and Chinese
4854 companies have signed over 20 long-term contracts since 2018
4855 for LNG supply, many of them are set to run for 20 years or
4856 longer. We can't be blind to the strategic risks here, and I
4857 believe my amendment will help make sure that we aren't.

4858 I urge adoption of my amendment and I yield back.

4859 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back the
4860 balance of his time. Is there further discussion on the
4861 amendment?

4862 The gentleman from Texas's 11th district is recognized
4863 for five minutes.

4864 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I definitely
4865 agree with my colleague on the other side of the aisle that
4866 we need to be judicious on the countries that we are dealing
4867 with.

4868 The underlying text of this bill still maintains
4869 countries that are sanctioned, those that sponsor terrorism,
4870 those that are in a -- some sort of nefarious state -- so the
4871 -- I think this amendment is duplicative again because the
4872 assumption in underlying statute is that it is in the public
4873 interest for us to export LNG.

4874 And furthermore, when you look at the production and the
4875 benefits of continuing that supply and demand curve, we will

4876 continue to power AI centers here in the United States
4877 because that is a separate issue that we are working through.

4878 But I believe that the text in 1949 on page 3 is pretty
4879 specific about the countries that we don't want to be sending
4880 LNG to, including North Korea, Russia, Iran, or those that
4881 sponsor terrorism.

4882 And I will yield back.

4883 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The
4884 chair now recognizes the gentlelady from Texas for five
4885 minutes.

4886 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be
4887 brief, and I just want to respond because I don't agree with
4888 my colleague in some of the underlying assertions about the
4889 benefits of exporting LNG.

4890 I do think that it is in our interest, and I have been
4891 pretty consistent on this committee in explaining that I
4892 think it is in our national interest to export LNG. I have
4893 various pieces of legislation, including the American Gas for
4894 Allies Act, trying to get expedited review of LNG and an
4895 assumption that for our NATO allies for Ukraine that we
4896 should be exporting LNG as quickly as possible, and that that
4897 is in our national interest.

4898 But we know that we have expedited permitting for
4899 countries that we have free trade agreements with, and there
4900 are a lot of countries that fall outside of that realm. I

4901 disagree that exporting LNG increases prices here at home.
4902 And we have a decade worth of data from -- of HubSpot pricing
4903 that says that it does not increase prices here at home. So
4904 I don't support this particular amendment for that reason
4905 that my colleague articulated.

4906 But I do share the concerns that, as I understand it,
4907 this legislation removes the determination about whether --
4908 about, you know -- removes the review of whether it is in our
4909 national interest across the board. And I think that, for
4910 exactly the reasons that Mr. Pfluger just stated, it may be
4911 changing over time. But we need to have a provision to make
4912 sure that we aren't exporting to Iran or to countries of
4913 concern, and that -- my understanding of this piece of
4914 legislation is that it generally removes that.

4915 I do believe it is in the national interest. I think
4916 that is what the review should confirm. But I think that
4917 extra step of making sure that it is in our national interest
4918 is an important safeguard in issuing these LNG export permits
4919 and making sure that it is in our national interest. So I
4920 just want to flag that issue. I understood from Mr. Pfluger
4921 to be saying that that is -- my understanding of the bill may
4922 not be right, so I would love to maybe yield to him if he
4923 wants to --

4924 *Mr. Pfluger. Sure.

4925 *Mrs. Fletcher. -- answer that question.

4926 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes. No, I am glad to hear that you
4927 support the expeditious exporting of --

4928 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, you know I do.

4929 *Mr. Pfluger. -- of LNG. But that is important
4930 because, when you look at page three it is very clear. Like,
4931 this is -- I appreciate this amendment, but it is
4932 duplicative. It is already being done. Nothing says that
4933 the president cannot take that action if it is needed.

4934 But the Department of Energy, taking that step out and
4935 putting it to FERC, allowing them to, with guardrails on the
4936 left and right side of it, if it is not an entity -- a
4937 country of concern that is not sanctioned, that doesn't have
4938 a tie to terrorism, then it is assumed it is in the public
4939 interest. But that statute is not removed. It still is
4940 there. Those guardrails are still there.

4941 So I just want to be clear that we are -- there is no
4942 skipping of steps, it is just an expeditious process.

4943 *Mrs. Fletcher. Could I just ask, though -- but what I
4944 am hearing you say is that we are going to remove this
4945 determination from the Department of Energy and send it to
4946 the president to make that --

4947 *Mr. Pfluger. Send it to FERC.

4948 *Mrs. Fletcher. And send it to FERC to make that --

4949 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.

4950 *Mrs. Fletcher. -- determination.

4951 *Mr. Pfluger. And it is assumed, unless it is a country
4952 of concern -- Iran, Russia, North Korea, those that are
4953 currently on that nefarious list -- so it is already there.
4954 I think this is a duplicative amendment.

4955 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, it also occurs to me -- and I
4956 could tell that my colleagues may also have something to say,
4957 and I promised I would be brief, but it does occur to me that
4958 in the past the process has worked to coordinate with the
4959 State Department, to others, and that that has worked at DoE.

4960 I agreed with you about concerns about the pause in the
4961 last administration, and was pretty clear in this committee
4962 about that, too. But it seems to me that that process for
4963 coordinating from the Department of Energy at that level and
4964 with the State Department and other energies [sic] made
4965 sense. So I don't know that we need to move that, although I
4966 certainly appreciate the concerns about what has happened in
4967 the past.

4968 So I appreciate your answering my questions. I
4969 appreciate you giving me the time to raise that issue. And
4970 again, I believe that it is in our national interest to
4971 export LNG, and believe that the determinations at the DoE on
4972 these -- on this basis will continue to support that
4973 conclusion, and that it will not increase prices for
4974 consumers here at home.

4975 *Mr. Latta. Is there any further discussion on the

4976 amendment?

4977 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida, the
4978 ranking member of the subcommittee, for five minutes.

4979 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4980 Colleagues, if you think of these dirty dozen bills as a
4981 conga line today, this is one that has got the kick after
4982 one, two, three kick. This is one of the biggies that will
4983 really so benefit the dirty, polluting energy sources.

4984 And so I wanted to offer strong support for the
4985 amendment offered by Representative Mullin that -- this
4986 amendment simply would restore the public interest test for
4987 exports of LNG from the United States to certain countries
4988 like China, and I have a question for counsel based upon that
4989 last exchange, because I think this is very important to have
4990 on the record.

4991 I understand that FERC would still have to permit LNG
4992 facilities, but this bill totally eliminates the public
4993 interest test, right?

4994 *Counsel. This bill would maintain FERC's authority
4995 currently, and makes it the sole --

4996 *Ms. Castor. That is --

4997 *Counsel. -- permitter of LNG export facilities under
4998 section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, and does remove the public
4999 interest determination through DoE.

5000 *Ms. Castor. Does remove the public interest

5001 determination.

5002 *Counsel. But does not change the underlying permitting
5003 process and NEPA review that these --

5004 *Ms. Castor. Removes the public interest test.

5005 *Counsel. That DoE currently performs.

5006 *Ms. Castor. Yes, at DoE.

5007 So over the past several months this committee has spent
5008 hours debating how to fortify our energy resources to fuel
5009 global competition in AI especially, but in manufacturing and
5010 electrification too. We want to make sure that it is the
5011 United States that wins the AI race, not our competitors like
5012 China. So if my Republican colleagues were serious about
5013 that competition, then they would agree that we shouldn't be
5014 shipping American energy overseas to China to power their AI
5015 data centers and manufacturing.

5016 China is the largest importer of natural gas, liquefied
5017 natural gas, in the world. And here is the dirty little
5018 secret Republicans don't want you to know: China was a
5019 significant importer of U.S. LNG. And we need to shine a
5020 spotlight on this. China has signed many long-term LNG
5021 contracts with U.S. projects. Some of those projects are now
5022 coming online. I noticed my good friend from Texas on the
5023 Republican side, every time he gave you the list of Iran, et
5024 cetera, China was not included.

5025 If all these projects came online, U.S. LNG would

5026 represent up to a quarter of all of China's contracted LNG,
5027 up from about three percent last year. And as a member of
5028 the House Select Committee on Countering the Chinese
5029 Communist Party, at that committee we have heard over and
5030 over again on the dangers of Chinese industrial dominance,
5031 how they cheat.

5032 But through this bill, Members -- House Republicans --
5033 want to make it easier for China to import U.S. energy to
5034 power their industrial sector. They also want to cede the
5035 next generation of energy technologies to China, as evidenced
5036 by the gutting of our clean energy tax credits and all of the
5037 initiatives in the billionaire boondoggle bill that they
5038 passed in the dark of night a couple of weeks ago. It is so
5039 hypocritical for Republicans, on one hand, to condemn Chinese
5040 forced labor, massive subsidies, and intellectual property
5041 theft, and then, on the other, to allow massive amounts of
5042 U.S. resources to flow to power Chinese factories on the
5043 other hand.

5044 So just last month every Republican on this committee
5045 voted effectively to overturn the Clean Energy manufacturing
5046 tax credit by shortening the timeline for qualification or
5047 imposing unworkable restrictions for eligibility. In doing
5048 so they eliminated a potential for U.S. export markets for
5049 solar modules and batteries that could be worth up to \$50
5050 billion by 2030. If this stands, then those products are

5051 going to be made in other countries like China. The U.S.
5052 will be shut out of an enormous and rapidly growing global
5053 market for low carbon technologies.

5054 So once again, Republicans want to take us back to the
5055 energy policies of the 1970s. It is backwards. It is not a
5056 plan for U.S. competition, for us to win these races. It is
5057 not a recipe for the clean -- for us to dominate the clean
5058 energy economy. And it is definitely not a recipe for how to
5059 lower costs for the people we represent back home.

5060 So I want to thank Mr. Mullin for offering this
5061 important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

5062 I yield back.

5063 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back, and
5064 the chair now recognizes the gentleman from Ohio's 12th
5065 district.

5066 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield my
5067 time to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger.

5068 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized.

5069 *Mr. Pfluger. I just want to talk to counsel here and
5070 clarify a point, because I think it is important. And this
5071 is a good discussion, and by no way, shape, or form are we
5072 wanting to go backwards in energy policy. In fact, it is
5073 just the opposite. We want to go forwards, and we want every
5074 energy source to compete in an economically feasible way.

5075 But counsel, can you answer a question for me when it

5076 comes to the underlying language? Because I think there is a
5077 -- can you tell me where the underlying language still states
5078 that the sanctions list would be maintained?

5079 *Counsel. On page three of the legislation it says
5080 nothing in this Act limits the authority of the president
5081 under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic
5082 Powers Act, the National Emergencies Act, the Trading with
5083 the Enemy Act, part B of title 2 of the Energy Policy and
5084 Conservation Act, or any other provision of law that imposes
5085 sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government,
5086 including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts
5087 United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a
5088 sanctioned person or government, including a country that is
5089 designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, to prohibit
5090 imports and/or exports -- or just exports.

5091 *Mr. Pfluger. So if China is sanctioned, does that
5092 apply to them?

5093 *Counsel. If China is on the sanctioned list, under the
5094 legislation, the statutes that are cited in the legislation,
5095 the president could exercise that authority to prohibit or
5096 restrict imports or exports of LNG.

5097 *Mr. Pfluger. Okay, thank you very much.

5098 I will yield back to the gentleman from Ohio.

5099 *Mr. Balderson. I yield back to the chairman.

5100 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any

5101 further discussion?

5102 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five
5103 minutes.

5104 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to
5105 clarify something that counsel said because she was -- my
5106 ears perked up at how precisely you answered a question from
5107 Ms. Castor about the public interest determination.

5108 And so on page -- you said that any public interest
5109 determination required under any other law would still take
5110 place. Is that -- did I hear you say that correctly?

5111 *Counsel. I don't believe I said that. What I -- what
5112 -- the intent of the statement was that FERC will continue to
5113 permit and review these export facilities as authorized under
5114 section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. I am not familiar with any
5115 other public interest determinations that are taken into
5116 consideration, but this legislation would not impact
5117 legislation that is outside of the Natural Gas Act.

5118 *Ms. McClellan. Okay, but I want to completely clarify
5119 the way this bill is written with -- and you can look on page
5120 2, lines 9 through 23. There will be no public interest
5121 determination for the projects in this bill. Is that
5122 correct?

5123 *Counsel. Correct. Projects would be treated similarly
5124 to other commodities, and be permitted and reviewed by FERC,
5125 but there would not be a public interest determination on the

5126 export from DoE.

5127 *Ms. McClellan. Okay, so the building of the project
5128 itself would still have to go through any public interest
5129 review to see do we even need this liquid natural gas
5130 pipeline or project. You are saying that this bill would
5131 only eliminate whether exporting it would be in the public
5132 interest.

5133 *Counsel. I didn't quite catch the first part, but --
5134 so correct me if I have misunderstood, but the --

5135 *Ms. McClellan. Well, let me reclaim my time.

5136 So line nine, it says FERC shall have the exclusive
5137 authority to approve or deny an application for authorization
5138 for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a
5139 facility to export natural gas, and on line 17 that that
5140 project shall be deemed -- shall deem the exportation or the
5141 importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public
5142 interest.

5143 So the way I read that, any other review that anybody
5144 would have done on the siting, construction, expansion, or
5145 operation now is 100 percent solely to be done by FERC. Is
5146 that correct?

5147 *Counsel. Correct, which is also consistent with
5148 current law.

5149 *Ms. McClellan. Okay. But it is only the exportation
5150 or importation of natural gas that the "deemed to be in the

5151 public interest'' applies to. Not the building,
5152 construction, et cetera, et cetera, is that correct?

5153 *Counsel. Correct. The building and construction as
5154 cited under on line 12 to 13 would not change of FERC
5155 permitting and reviewing that infrastructure. FERC would --
5156 but FERC would consider the exports to be deemed in the
5157 public interest.

5158 *Ms. McClellan. Okay. But this bill would assume that
5159 FERC would have the expertise to determine whether an export
5160 or import from a particular country is consistent with our
5161 national security interests as set by the Department of
5162 Defense.

5163 *Counsel. It would take the determination out, so it
5164 would assume that public interest criteria is met, which is
5165 stated on lines 18 to 19.

5166 *Ms. McClellan. So regardless of whether a country is
5167 listed in the statute or not, regardless of whether that
5168 country has sanctions against them or not -- and let's say
5169 there is a country that is not listed that doesn't have
5170 sanctions on it that, because of something that happens, the
5171 Department of Defense decides it is not in our national
5172 security interest to export LNG to this country at this time
5173 given what is happening in this instance, unless the
5174 president decides to impose sanctions on that country FERC
5175 can and will ignore the opinion of the Department of Defense.

5176 *Counsel. FERC is responsible for the physical facility
5177 being constructed and permitted. It does not decide the
5178 public interest of where cargoes go. This legislation would
5179 take that --

5180 *Ms. McClellan. Reclaiming my time because I don't have
5181 enough, this says that FERC shall deem the exportation or
5182 importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public
5183 interest, period. So if there is a situation where the
5184 Department of Defense says this exportation or importation of
5185 liquid natural gas to this country is not in our national
5186 security interest, too bad.

5187 I yield back.

5188 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady's time has expired. Is
5189 there any further discussion on the amendment?

5190 Hearing none, a roll call vote has been requested, and
5191 the clerk will call the roll.

5192 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

5193 [No response.]

5194 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

5195 *Mr. Palmer. No.

5196 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

5197 Mr. Allen?

5198 *Mr. Allen. No.

5199 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

5200 Mr. Balderson?

5201 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5202 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
5203 Mr. Pfluger?
5204 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
5205 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
5206 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5207 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5208 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5209 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5210 [No response.]
5211 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5212 [No response.]
5213 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
5214 *Mr. Bentz. No.
5215 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
5216 Mr. Fry?
5217 *Mr. Fry. No.
5218 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
5219 Ms. Lee?
5220 [No response.]
5221 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
5222 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
5223 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
5224 Mr. Rulli?
5225 *Mr. Rulli. No.

5226 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
5227 Mr. Evans?
5228 *Mr. Evans. No.
5229 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
5230 Mr. Goldman?
5231 *Mr. Goldman. No.
5232 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
5233 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5234 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
5235 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
5236 Mr. Guthrie?
5237 *The Chair. No.
5238 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
5239 Ms. Castor?
5240 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
5241 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5242 Mr. Peters?
5243 [No response.]
5244 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
5245 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5246 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5247 Mr. Mullin?
5248 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
5249 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
5250 Ms. McClellan?

5251 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
5252 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
5253 Ms. DeGette?
5254 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5255 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5256 Ms. Matsui?
5257 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5258 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5259 Mr. Tonko?
5260 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5261 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5262 Mr. Veasey?
5263 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
5264 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
5265 Ms. Schrier?
5266 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5267 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5268 Mrs. Fletcher?
5269 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5270 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5271 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5272 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
5273 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
5274 Mr. Auchincloss?
5275 [No response.]

5276 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
5277 *Mr. Pallone. Yes.
5278 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
5279 Chairman Latta?
5280 *Mr. Latta. No.
5281 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.
5282 *Mr. Latta. Are there other members wishing to respond?
5283 The gentleman from Texas, the vice chair of the
5284 subcommittee.
5285 *Mr. Weber. How am I registered?
5286 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
5287 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes no.
5288 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
5289 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Michigan.
5290 *Mr. James. How am I recorded?
5291 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
5292 *Mr. James. No.
5293 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
5294 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the tally.
5295 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 12
5296 ayes and 16 noes.
5297 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The amendment is not agreed to.
5298 Are there further amendments?
5299 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment.
5300 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady from Florida, the ranking

5301 member of the subcommittee, is recognized.

5302 *Ms. Castor. I move to strike the last word. It is
5303 amendment HR1949-10.

5304 *Mr. Latta. And the clerk will report the amendment.

5305 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1949, offered by Ms.
5306 Castor. Add at the end the following --

5307 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
5308 amendment is dispensed with.

5309 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

5310

5311 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5312

5313 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
5314 minutes in support of the amendment.

5315 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5316 Colleagues, I thought about offering an amendment that
5317 renamed the bill the higher electric bills for Americans act,
5318 but instead I am going to offer this amendment that would
5319 prevent the bill from taking effect until the Department of
5320 Energy certifies that increased fracked gas exports from the
5321 U.S. will not increase domestic gas prices. This amendment
5322 would simply pause implementation until we know the impact on
5323 domestic energy prices.

5324 House Republicans already tried to pass this special
5325 interest giveaway in the billionaire boondoggle bill in the
5326 dead of night. I know why you did it the dead of night,
5327 because this is going to raise electric bills across the
5328 country while we should be taking up legislation that will
5329 lower bills and lower the cost of living for Americans. But
5330 here we are, discussing it again today, and I am glad we can
5331 do it in the light of day to talk about the price spikes that
5332 consumers are about to see under Republican policies and this
5333 very interesting issue of Republicans supporting gas exports
5334 to our adversary in China.

5335 If the government wants to approve new, large
5336 infrastructure projects or export U.S. resources abroad, it
5337 is common sense they should make sure that those decisions

5338 benefit the American people. But this bill removes the
5339 important role that the Department of Energy plays in
5340 analyzing those decisions.

5341 That is not all. Republicans want to go further. They
5342 don't even trust FERC, an independent agency with experienced
5343 staff to make decisions on its own. Instead, under this
5344 bill, Congress will force FERC to find that all gas exports
5345 are in the public interest without doing any due diligence
5346 and surrendering any Federal Government responsibility.

5347 Now, one of the responsibilities that the Federal
5348 Government should have is to ensure that LNG exports don't
5349 raise costs on working families and business owners. In
5350 December of 2024 the Department of Energy released a study
5351 that made it clear continuing to approve fracked gas exports
5352 would raise costs on U.S. households, and in addition to the
5353 doubling in natural gas costs that the Energy Information
5354 Administration expects to see this year. Increased LNG
5355 exports raises domestic gas prices, electricity prices, and
5356 the prices of manufactured goods.

5357 The New York Times reported just yesterday in this
5358 article, "Electricity prices are surging. The GOP mega-bill
5359 could push them higher.'" It says the cost of electricity is
5360 rising across the country, forcing Americans to pay more on
5361 their monthly bills, squeezing manufacturers, and some of
5362 Trump's policies are making things worse, despite his

5363 promises to slash energy prices.

5364 This week the Senate is taking up the sweeping domestic
5365 policy bill already passed in the House. In its current
5366 form, that bill would abruptly end most of the Biden-era
5367 Federal tax credits for low-carbon sources of electricity
5368 like wind, solar, batteries, and geothermal. Repealing those
5369 credits will increase the average family's energy bill by as
5370 much as \$400, according to several studies that I offered for
5371 the record earlier.

5372 So -- and let's -- I also want to offer for the record,
5373 Mr. Chairman -- don't just take it from me. Take it from the
5374 Industrial Energy Consumers of America. They wrote to this
5375 committee on -- at the end of April and said about this bill
5376 it is anti-consumer, and inconsistent with the intent of
5377 Congress to deliver affordable and reliable natural gas and
5378 electricity. It removes the longstanding natural gas
5379 consumer protection that Ms. McClellan was getting to the
5380 bottom of that requires the U.S. Department of Energy to
5381 evaluate whether applications to export to non-free trade
5382 countries are inconsistent with the public interest. They
5383 say, "As manufacturers who compete with China and are price
5384 sensitive, Chinese company LNG contracts represent 36 percent
5385 of U.S. LNG operating capacity. We believe U.S. consumers
5386 should be a priority over LNG customers.'`

5387 So I will offer those for the record, and --

5388 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

5389 [The information follows:]

5390

5391 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5392

5393 *Ms. Castor. And just go back to the fact that you also
5394 cannot ignore what increased fracked gas exports mean to a
5395 heating climate, given that the large methane and CO2
5396 pollution are emitted during the fracking, pipeline
5397 transport, liquefaction, overseas shipping, and combustion
5398 processes. It endangers communities. It is fueling the
5399 higher cost. The climate crisis isn't just about the
5400 weather, it is about our wallets. And here we have a chance
5401 to take a stand for the wallets of our neighbors back home.
5402 We should do so.

5403 So I urge you to support my amendment and ultimately
5404 vote no on this bill.

5405 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back the balance of
5406 her time, and the chair now recognizes the gentleman from
5407 Texas's 11th district for five minutes.

5408 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and prices don't
5409 lie, and I am glad that we are talking about prices, because
5410 I think it is very important to talk about prices. And I
5411 think, when you take a historical look at prices, the facts
5412 are 100 percent in favor of natural gas.

5413 And in fact, just a couple of months ago we had all
5414 seven Independent Service Operators, ISOs, that testified
5415 right here in front of this committee, and every single one
5416 of them said that LNG is the most efficient, is the cleanest,
5417 and is the best fuel to use. So I agree with my colleague.

5418 Don't take it from me, take it from them, take it from the
5419 testimony of those that testified.

5420 Mr. Chairman, I want to enter a report into the record.
5421 It is titled -- and I have it digitally, I will get it to the
5422 committee -- "Impact Analysis of U.S. Natural Gas Exports on
5423 Domestic Natural Gas Pricing.'" It is a 30-page document. I
5424 would like to enter it into the record.

5425 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, so ordered.

5426 [The information follows:]

5427

5428 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5429

5430 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you. In that and in other studies
5431 it shows that bolstering LNG exports actually increases
5432 domestic production and it lowers price. Completion of U.S.
5433 LNG export terminals has had minimal or no impact on short-
5434 term domestic natural gas pricing due to the lengthy
5435 construction times, as well as unique long-term financing and
5436 contracting structure. But in fact, while LNG exports rose
5437 by 14 BCF a day between the years 2016 and 2023, the gas
5438 production jumped almost double, 31 BCF a day. But despite
5439 the total U.S. natural gas consumption almost doubling in
5440 that period, the 2023 average natural gas price of \$2.54 was
5441 the second lowest level in over 35 years.

5442 Between 2007 and 2022, U.S. gross natural gas production
5443 grew from virtually non-existent volumes to almost 90 billion
5444 cubic feet a day, and the increased low cost supply base of
5445 natural gas enabled the U.S. to export more natural gas, more
5446 crude oil, and other petroleum products that we imported,
5447 that we used to import. Natural gas prices at the Henry Hub
5448 have averaged roughly \$4.10 for the last 10 years, which is a
5449 reduction of 54 percent compared to the prior decade. So I
5450 am glad that we are talking about prices. I am glad to know
5451 that this subject is important.

5452 But again, don't take it from me. Take it from those
5453 who have testified in front of this committee, the seven
5454 Independent Service Operators who are looking at the mixture

5455 of electricity and what power -- what is powering electricity
5456 every single day.

5457 The reason that we are here, the reason we are having
5458 this discussion is because the prior administration chose to
5459 pick winners and losers, and they picked expensive sources
5460 Let's let these sources compete. Let's let them have it out
5461 on what is most efficient, what provides Americans the most
5462 affordable solutions. And as they have testified many times,
5463 and as the document that I submitted for the record shows
5464 because the prices do not lie, producing natural gas in the
5465 United States not only is 40 percent cleaner than other
5466 countries such as Russia, but it also brings the price down.

5467 And I will yield back.

5468 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
5469 there further discussion on the amendment?

5470 Hearing none, the --

5471 *Ms. Castor. Roll call.

5472 *Mr. Latta. -- roll call has been requested on the
5473 amendment, and the clerk will take the roll.

5474 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

5475 *Mr. Weber. No.

5476 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

5477 Mr. Palmer?

5478 *Mr. Palmer. No.

5479 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

5480 Mr. Allen?

5481 *Mr. Allen. No, ma'am.

5482 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

5483 Mr. Balderson?

5484 *Mr. Balderson. No.

5485 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

5486 Mr. Pfluger?

5487 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

5488 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

5489 Mrs. Harshbarger?

5490 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

5491 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

5492 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

5493 [No response.]

5494 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

5495 *Mr. James. No.

5496 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

5497 Mr. Bentz?

5498 *Mr. Bentz. No.

5499 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

5500 Mr. Fry?

5501 *Mr. Fry. No.

5502 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

5503 Ms. Lee?

5504 [No response.]

5505 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
5506 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
5507 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
5508 Mr. Rulli?
5509 *Mr. Rulli. No.
5510 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
5511 Mr. Evans?
5512 *Mr. Evans. No.
5513 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
5514 Mr. Goldman?
5515 *Mr. Goldman. No.
5516 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
5517 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5518 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
5519 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
5520 Mr. Guthrie?
5521 *The Chair. No.
5522 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
5523 Ms. Castor?
5524 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
5525 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5526 Mr. Peters?
5527 *Mr. Peters. Yes.
5528 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5529 Mr. Menendez?

5530 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5531 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5532 Mr. Mullin?
5533 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
5534 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
5535 Ms. McClellan?
5536 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
5537 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
5538 Ms. DeGette?
5539 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5540 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5541 Ms. Matsui?
5542 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5543 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5544 Mr. Tonko?
5545 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5546 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5547 Mr. Veasey?
5548 [No response.]
5549 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
5550 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5551 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5552 Mrs. Fletcher?
5553 [No response.]
5554 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

5555 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

5556 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

5557 Mr. Auchincloss?

5558 [No response.]

5559 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

5560 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

5561 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

5562 Chairman Latta?

5563 *Mr. Latta. No.

5564 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.

5565 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to

5566 record their vote?

5567 Hearing none, the clerk will report the roll.

5568 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 11

5569 ayes and 16 noes.

5570 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there

5571 further amendments?

5572 *Ms. Castor. No more amendments.

5573 *Mr. Latta. Hearing none, the question now occurs on

5574 adopting H.R. 1949 --

5575 *Ms. Castor. Roll call.

5576 *Mr. Latta. -- and a roll call vote has been requested,

5577 and the clerk will conduct the roll.

5578 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

5579 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

5580 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5581 Mr. Palmer?
5582 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
5583 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
5584 Mr. Allen?
5585 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5586 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5587 Mr. Balderson?
5588 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
5589 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
5590 Mr. Pfluger?
5591 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
5592 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
5593 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5594 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
5595 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
5596 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5597 [No response.]
5598 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5599 *Mr. James. Aye.
5600 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5601 Mr. Bentz?
5602 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5603 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5604 Mr. Fry?

5605 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5606 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5607 Ms. Lee?
5608 [No response.]
5609 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
5610 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5611 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5612 Mr. Rulli?
5613 [No response.]
5614 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
5615 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
5616 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
5617 Mr. Goldman?
5618 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
5619 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
5620 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5621 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
5622 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
5623 Mr. Guthrie?
5624 *The Chair. Aye.
5625 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
5626 Ms. Castor?
5627 *Ms. Castor. No.
5628 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
5629 Mr. Peters?

5630 *Mr. Peters. No.
5631 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
5632 Mr. Menendez?
5633 *Mr. Menendez. No.
5634 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
5635 Mr. Mullin?
5636 *Mr. Mullin. No.
5637 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
5638 Ms. McClellan?
5639 *Ms. McClellan. No.
5640 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
5641 Ms. DeGette?
5642 *Ms. DeGette. No.
5643 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
5644 Ms. Matsui?
5645 *Ms. Matsui. No.
5646 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
5647 Mr. Tonko?
5648 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5649 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5650 Mr. Veasey?
5651 [No response.]
5652 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
5653 *Ms. Schrier. No.
5654 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

5655 Mrs. Fletcher?

5656 [No response.]

5657 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

5658 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

5659 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

5660 Mr. Auchincloss?

5661 [No response.]

5662 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

5663 *Mr. Pallone. No.

5664 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

5665 Chairman Latta?

5666 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

5667 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.

5668 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to
5669 record their vote?

5670 All right.

5671 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

5672 *Mr. Latta. How is the gentleman from Texas's 33rd
5673 district recorded?

5674 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

5675 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey is no.

5676 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

5677 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

5678 *Mr. Latta. How is the gentlelady from Texas's 7th
5679 district recorded?

5680 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher is not recorded.

5681 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

5682 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

5683 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members?

5684 Hearing none, the clerk will report the roll.

5685 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 15
5686 ayes and 13 noes.

5687 *Mr. Latta. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

5688 The chair calls up H.R. 3668, and asks the clerk to
5689 report.

5690 *The Clerk. H.R. 3668, a bill to promote interagency
5691 coordination for reviewing --

5692 *Mr. Latta. And without objection, the first reading of
5693 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
5694 amendment at any point.

5695 So ordered.

5696 [The bill follows:]

5697

5698 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5699

5700 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
5701 bill?

5702 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman?

5703 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from
5704 Texas, the vice chair of the subcommittee, seek recognition?

5705 *Mr. Weber. I seek to be recognized to strike the last
5706 word.

5707 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized.

5708 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5709 *Mr. Latta. Five minutes.

5710 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5711 H.R. 3668 brings much-needed transparency and
5712 coordination between agencies involved in the permitting of
5713 interstate natural gas lines.

5714 FERC is the lead agency for permitting and siting
5715 natural gas pipelines. This legislation would strengthen
5716 FERC's role by requiring schedules, simultaneous reviews, and
5717 more enforcement authority to resolve disputes between the
5718 agencies.

5719 Currently, interstate pipeline project developers face
5720 significant regulatory challenges. In fact, only 5 petroleum
5721 liquid pipelines were completed in 2024 -- let that sink in
5722 -- with the only interstate pipeline being refined product
5723 pipeline. In order to meet projected energy demand, it is
5724 imperative that Congress take action to build out critical

5725 energy infrastructure like pipelines.

5726 Despite FERC being given increased authority under the
5727 Energy Policy Act of 2005, pipeline infrastructure approvals
5728 are consistently delayed due to a lack of coordination
5729 between agencies throughout the permitting process. Under
5730 H.R. 3668, stakeholders would come to the table earlier so
5731 they can identify any concerns early on in that process.
5732 From there, agencies participating in the permitting process
5733 would perform their analysis while complying with the
5734 schedules established by FERC.

5735 This legislation would also improve public transparency
5736 by requiring FERC to publish the schedule for the relevant
5737 application and list a list of all completed and outstanding
5738 actions required by those agencies.

5739 Additionally, this legislation would improve the water
5740 quality review by moving that responsibility from states to
5741 FERC. Instead of an applicant being responsible for
5742 receiving a Clean Water Act section 401 certification from a
5743 state, FERC would now incorporate that in its NEPA review.
5744 FERC would still consider terms or conditions proposed by the
5745 states involved in the process, and would include those
5746 necessary for compliance with the underlying statute. This
5747 legislation maintains a state's authority to raise and remedy
5748 legitimate water quality concerns while bringing more
5749 predictability to the process.

5750 If we want to reduce Americans' energy costs -- and I
5751 hope we all do -- win the AI race against China -- again, I
5752 hope we all want to do that -- and we want to maintain our
5753 nation's position as an energy superpower -- I hope we all
5754 want to do that -- it is absolutely critical that we have
5755 policies in place to facilitate pipeline build-out, and not
5756 in 5 years, not in 10 years, but in the immediate future.
5757 This energy and technology battle is going to be won within
5758 the next five years. Let that sink in.

5759 Mr. Chairman, I urge a yes vote, and I yield back.

5760 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
5761 there further discussion on the bill?

5762 *Ms. Castor. Amendments?

5763 *Mr. Latta. Are there any amendments?

5764 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Virginia seek
5765 recognition?

5766 *Ms. McClellan. I have an amendment at the desk labeled
5767 AMD_HR3668_28.

5768 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report on the amendment.

5769 *Ms. McClellan. Two nine, sorry, two nine.

5770 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3668, offered by Ms.
5771 McClellan. Page 15, after line 9, insert --

5772 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
5773 amendment is dispensed with.

5774

5775 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

5776

5777 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5778

5779 *Mr. Latta. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
5780 minutes in support of her amendment.

5781 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5782 This amendment is very similar to one that Ranking
5783 Member Pallone had to the previous bill, so I think I know
5784 how this is going to go, but it would prevent the bill from
5785 taking effect until we fully understand any risk of
5786 corruption if FERC charges a \$10 million fee for automatic
5787 approval of a natural gas pipeline.

5788 It also requires the DoE's inspector general to report
5789 to Congress how this policy could threaten the integrity of
5790 both DoE and FERC's permitting process.

5791 This is a blatant pay-to-play or pay-to-pollute scheme
5792 that was adopted as part of the billionaire bonus budget bill
5793 a couple of weeks ago. And under that proposal, if any
5794 company gives FERC a \$10 million check they get special
5795 treatment. FERC must approve applications within a year or
5796 they will be deemed approved anyway. And this doesn't just
5797 short-circuit the permitting process, it basically destroys
5798 it, slams the door on judicial review by severely restricting
5799 who can even bring a lawsuit.

5800 And I would say it flies in the face of anyone who
5801 thinks that we should be adopting anti-corruption proposals
5802 going forward, rather than proposals that encourage or
5803 facilitate corruption.

5804 And I would say over the past few months, whether it is
5805 paying -- you know, paying a campaign contribution and then
5806 having your son pardoned, whether it is accepting a \$4
5807 million plane from a foreign country in violation of the
5808 Constitution, or paying \$10 million to get automatic approval
5809 of a pipeline, this is not what the American people expect of
5810 our government that seeks to have transparency, the rule of
5811 law, and basic fairness.

5812 And so we have seen what happens when pipeline projects
5813 are slammed down your throat. In 2023, as part of the debt
5814 ceiling deal, the Mountain Valley pipeline got rubber-
5815 stamped. This is a project that was -- that had bipartisan
5816 opposition in Virginia. The pipeline went through Republican
5817 areas of the state. They were strongly opposed to it. Their
5818 elected representatives on both sides of the aisle were
5819 strongly opposed to it because already in the construction of
5820 that pipeline it was doing significant damage to the
5821 environment, causing erosion and increased settlement in
5822 stream beds. They had been cited for numerous water quality
5823 violations.

5824 As the pipeline was being constructed, nearby residents
5825 observed numerous environmental impacts that included
5826 decreased water quality, increased erosion, new flooding
5827 patterns, unexpected death of livestock, landslides being
5828 triggered because the plan that Mountain Valley had to

5829 construct that pipeline over the particular geography they
5830 were trying to do it didn't make sense. And yet, if Mountain
5831 Valley pipeline -- if they had just sent -- paid \$10,000, it
5832 would have been approved no matter what, just like it was --
5833 10 million, sorry, \$10 million -- it would have been approved
5834 just like it was automatically approved by congressional
5835 fiat. And this cuts the public out of the process
5836 altogether.

5837 And one of the reasons the Mountain Valley pipeline was
5838 so unpopular was because by the time the people who would be
5839 impacted found out about it, it was so far down the process
5840 they had no meaningful way to participate. And I just think
5841 we should pause and see how is this pay-to-pollute provision
5842 going to play out before we further fast-track pipeline
5843 projects?

5844 And with that I yield back.

5845 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back the balance of
5846 her time.

5847 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman?

5848 *Mr. Latta. The chair now recognizes the gentleman from
5849 Texas, the vice chair of the subcommittee --

5850 *Mr. Weber. I move to strike the last word. Thank you,
5851 sir. I want to speak in opposition to this amendment.

5852 I remember Shakespeare once said about a gentleman,
5853 "Methinks the gentleman do protesteth too much.'" I think

5854 the gentlelady protesteth too much. This amendment has
5855 nothing to do with the substance of H.R. 3668. This
5856 amendment is not applicable to this legislation, and there is
5857 no \$10 million fee included in the underlying bill.

5858 H.R. 3668 would simply -- and, quite frankly,
5859 importantly -- improve coordination among Federal and state
5860 agencies reviewing the applications for the construction of
5861 interstate pipelines. The FERC process includes rigorous --
5862 and let me repeat that -- the FERC process includes
5863 environmental reviews under NEPA and other statutes, for that
5864 matter. Nothing in this bill alters FERC's review of these
5865 projects. Nothing alters states' ability and influence when
5866 participating in these reviews.

5867 I want to remind all my colleagues we are looking at
5868 energy needs. We are going to have data centers. We are
5869 going to have more industry, more companies. We can't afford
5870 long, unnecessary delays.

5871 At any point -- at any rate, I urge a no vote on this
5872 amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5873 *Mr. Latta. Is there further discussion?

5874 The gentleman from California is recognized for five
5875 minutes.

5876 *Mr. Mullin. Mr. Chair, I yield to my colleague from
5877 Virginia.

5878 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5879 You know, I know my colleagues on the other side of the
5880 aisle want to legislate in a vacuum, but we don't live in a
5881 vacuum. And the provision from the reconciliation bill, if
5882 it becomes law -- you have to read these bills together. And
5883 what that provision said is, if you pay a \$10 million fee to
5884 FERC, you are automatically approved for a national --
5885 natural gas line permit. It doesn't matter what this bill
5886 says, because that -- they will both be law. And when and if
5887 it ever gets to the Supreme Court -- and I don't know if it
5888 will, because you are limiting the ability to file lawsuits
5889 -- they are going to assume that Congress meant both.

5890 *Ms. Castor. Would the gentlewoman yield on this?

5891 *Ms. McClellan. In a minute.

5892 *Ms. Castor. Okay.

5893 *Ms. McClellan. And so whether the underlying bill has
5894 the \$10 million provision or not, if it becomes law it is
5895 going to supersede this.

5896 And yes, we need more energy. And yes, we need data
5897 centers. But we have got -- the whole point of environmental
5898 reviews is we can't kill people in the process. We can't
5899 kill our planet in the process. And you think we have got
5900 national security issues if we don't win the race to AI, or
5901 if we don't meet our energy goals or requirements? You wait
5902 and see what the national security implications are of more
5903 and more people trying to live on less and less habitable

5904 land, more and more people trying to get access to drinkable
5905 water. That is the whole purpose of our environmental
5906 protection laws, because we literally had rivers on fire. We
5907 have got to strike that balance.

5908 And saying to someone -- whether in this bill or not,
5909 because it is going to apply to the same projects covered by
5910 this bill -- "You just paid \$10 million, go forth and do
5911 whatever you want'' is irresponsible.

5912 And now I yield to Ms. Castor.

5913 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Ms. McClellan. It just
5914 occurred to me, if we are going to quote Hamlet, that maybe
5915 you want to think about to be or not to be, that is the
5916 question. But here you have kind of turned that on its head.
5917 It is to be or not to be, pay \$10 million and get out of jail
5918 free card, get expedite [sic]. And you are so right. It
5919 just fits right in with the culture of corruption that we
5920 have seen over the past five months here. People are
5921 outraged by it, and I just -- I am grateful to you that you
5922 are willing to offer this amendment to shine a light on this
5923 pay-to-pollute provision. Thank you. I yield back to you.

5924 *Mr. Latta. Does the gentlelady -- or does the
5925 gentleman yield back?

5926 *Mr. Mullin. I yield back.

5927 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. The chair now
5928 recognizes the gentleman from Georgia's 12th district for

5929 five minutes.

5930 *Mr. Allen. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word
5931 to speak against -- in opposition to the amendment in favor
5932 of the -- Representative Hudson's bill, H.R. 3668.

5933 Without objection?

5934 *Mr. Latta. Without objection.

5935 *Mr. Allen. Okay. You know, I don't -- when I am
5936 listening to the amendment, it sounds like you don't have the
5937 right bill, but at any rate I think my colleague, Mr. Weber,
5938 pointed that out.

5939 But let me just state that we have an abundance of
5940 natural gas in our country, and we have got to get it from
5941 point A to point B. And every expert says the safest way to
5942 do that is through a pipeline. Obviously, you can put it on
5943 the road, the interstate, or you can put it on a rail car.
5944 But by far, the safety record of pipelines exceeds rail and
5945 car. So we have got to move this stuff, and we have got to
5946 get it converted to LNG. You know, right now it is in a gas
5947 going through a pipeline. It is not a liquid. When it gets
5948 converted to LNG, it becomes a liquid.

5949 It is critical that we build up our energy
5950 infrastructure, and pipeline capacity is the way to do that.
5951 We have heard it from witnesses hearing after hearing. We
5952 need to address permitting for natural gas pipelines, and Mr.
5953 Hudson's bill does just that. H.R. 3668 improves

5954 coordination between Federal and state agencies when
5955 reviewing applications for the construction of interstate
5956 natural gas pipelines.

5957 Specifically, this bill would strengthen the Federal
5958 Energy Regulatory Commission's FERC rule under the Natural
5959 Gas Act by requiring set schedules, concurrent reviews, and
5960 the establishment of dispute resolution processing among
5961 permitting agencies. The legislation would also improve
5962 water quality reviews by shifting the review responsibility
5963 to FERC, while still requiring the incorporation of necessary
5964 terms and conditions proposed by the relevant states in the
5965 final certification.

5966 This is a step in the right direction to fix the
5967 permitting process for natural gas pipelines to ensure we are
5968 providing reliable and affordable energy to our communities.
5969 I urge support of this -- I urge opposition to this amendment
5970 and support of this bill.

5971 And with that I yield back.

5972 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
5973 back. Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

5974 Hearing none, a roll call has been requested, and the
5975 clerk will call the roll.

5976 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

5977 *Mr. Weber. No, ma'am.

5978 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

5979 Mr. Palmer?
5980 [No response.]
5981 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
5982 *Mr. Allen. No.
5983 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
5984 Mr. Balderson?
5985 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5986 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
5987 Mr. Pfluger?
5988 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
5989 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
5990 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5991 [No response.]
5992 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
5993 [No response.]
5994 *Voice. No.
5995 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5996 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5997 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5998 [No response.]
5999 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6000 *Mr. James. No.
6001 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
6002 Mr. Bentz?
6003 *Mr. Bentz. No.

6004 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6005 Mr. Fry?
6006 *Mr. Fry. No.
6007 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
6008 Ms. Lee?
6009 [No response.]
6010 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6011 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6012 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
6013 Mr. Rulli?
6014 [No response.]
6015 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
6016 *Mr. Evans. No.
6017 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6018 Mr. Goldman?
6019 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6020 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6021 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6022 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6023 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6024 Mr. Guthrie?
6025 *The Chair. No.
6026 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
6027 Ms. Castor?
6028 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

6029 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6030 Mr. Peters?
6031 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6032 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6033 Mr. Menendez?
6034 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6035 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6036 Mr. Mullin?
6037 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6038 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6039 Ms. McClellan?
6040 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6041 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6042 Ms. DeGette?
6043 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6044 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6045 Ms. Matsui?
6046 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6047 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6048 Mr. Tonko?
6049 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6050 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6051 Mr. Veasey?
6052 [No response.]
6053 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?

6054 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6055 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6056 Mrs. Fletcher?
6057 [No response.]
6058 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6059 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6060 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6061 Mr. Auchincloss?
6062 [No response.]
6063 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6064 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6065 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6066 Chairman Latta?
6067 *Mr. Latta. No.
6068 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.
6069 *Mr. Latta. Are there members wishing to record their
6070 vote?
6071 The gentleman from Alabama.
6072 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
6073 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
6074 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6075 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members?
6076 Hearing none, the clerk will take the roll.
6077 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 11
6078 ayes and 15 noes.

6079 *Mr. Latta. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6080 further amendments?

6081 *Ms. Castor. One more amendment.

6082 *Mr. Latta. For what purpose does the gentleman from
6083 New Jersey seek recognition?

6084 *Mr. Menendez. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
6085 desk labeled AMD_HR3668_25.

6086 *Mr. Latta. The clerk will report the amendment.

6087 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3668, offered by Mr.
6088 Menendez. Strike page 7, line 1.

6089 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the reading of the
6090 amendment is dispensed with.

6091 [The amendment of Mr. Menendez follows:]

6092

6093 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6094

6095 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman is recognized for five
6096 minutes in support of the amendment.

6097 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman.

6098 The Clean Water Act grants states the right to permit
6099 activities in their waters. If you don't follow the Clean
6100 Water law in a given state, you don't get a permit. Pretty
6101 straightforward. Unfortunately, after we had our legislative
6102 hearing on this bill, Republicans snuck in a provision that
6103 would strip states of their right to enforce their clean
6104 water laws for natural gas pipelines. I think that is plain
6105 wrong and hypocritical.

6106 My amendment would remove that provision and protect
6107 states' rights to enforce clean water laws for natural gas
6108 pipelines. Furthermore, my amendment adds language making
6109 this crystal clear that nothing in this bill should affect
6110 states' ability to regulate their own rivers, lakes, and
6111 waters under their own laws.

6112 In a letter to Congress, a coalition of groups including
6113 the Western Governors Association, the Association of Fish
6114 and Wildlife Agencies, and the Council of State Governments
6115 urged congressional leaders to spike any bill that "would
6116 diminish or impair or subordinate states' ability to manage
6117 or protect water quality within their boundaries. States
6118 have primary legal authority over the allocation,
6119 administration, protection, and development of their water

6120 resources. Responsible growth and development, as well as
6121 proper environmental management depend upon the recognition
6122 and preservation of state stewardship.'`

6123 This isn't a hypothetical issue. The President has
6124 attempted to extort the State of New York into approving two
6125 gas pipelines, but one of those pipelines would run through
6126 New Jersey and through our state's waters which are vital to
6127 our economic and environmental well-being. Five years ago
6128 New Jersey said the pipeline didn't comply with its clean
6129 water laws. Now Donald Trump and Republicans don't want New
6130 Jersey to have a say anymore. And this comes at a time when
6131 the party of states' rights, the Republicans, have
6132 consistently taken actions this Congress and in this
6133 committee to force their agenda on individual states, taking
6134 away states' rights to regulate how they see fit.

6135 As mentioned earlier, in our reconciliation markup there
6136 is a 10-year moratorium on states' rights to regulate AI.
6137 And as I mentioned earlier, one of our colleagues from
6138 Georgia said that, if she had read the bill, she is adamantly
6139 opposed to this, and it is a violation of state rights. "And
6140 I would have voted no if I had known this was in there.'`
6141 She goes on to state, "We should be reducing Federal power
6142 and preserving state power.'`

6143 And this is the hypocrisy and -- hypocrisy of
6144 Republicans because they invoke states' rights when they

6145 don't want to have a Federal plan for women to have access to
6146 reproductive care. They invoke states' rights when they
6147 don't take any Federal action to end the scourge of gun
6148 violence across our country. But when it comes to the
6149 environment, when it comes to clean water, when it comes to
6150 their friends in the oil industry and giving them a boost,
6151 they certainly don't care about allowing states to make and
6152 enforce their own laws.

6153 So it is a simple message to Republicans on this
6154 amendment. If you care about your state having a state -- a
6155 say, I urge you to support my amendment. If you care about
6156 your state legislatures being able to write their own
6157 environmental laws, I urge you to support my amendment. If
6158 you care about your constituents having access to clean
6159 water, I urge you to support my amendment. And if you care
6160 about big companies not being able to buy their permits, I
6161 urge you to support my amendment.

6162 I yield back.

6163 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
6164 back. And why -- for what purpose does the gentleman from
6165 Texas seek recognition?

6166 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak in
6167 opposition to the amendment, I move to strike the last word.

6168 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
6169 minutes to strike the last word.

6170 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here we go. Here
6171 we go again, another amendment that would -- this amendment
6172 would actually allow bad state actors to continue their
6173 efforts to block pipeline development by rejecting Clean
6174 Water Act 401 certifications. Oh, gosh.

6175 States have -- for too long, Mr. Chairman, states have
6176 weaponized section 401 of the Clean Water Act to block the
6177 construction of pipelines that would have provided clean and
6178 reliable energy to the American people at affordable prices.
6179 NEPA already requires FERC to extensively consider water
6180 quality impacts, and the NGA authorizes FERC to include
6181 mitigation conditions in certificates to reduce project
6182 impacts. The underlying language preserves the authority of
6183 states to raise legitimate water quality concerns, but
6184 prevents states from using water quality concerns as a
6185 pretext to block projects for political reasons.

6186 Let me reiterate. It will not allow states to use
6187 quality concerns as a pretext to block projects purely for
6188 political reasons, Mr. Chairman.

6189 This amendment would reverse -- this amendment would gut
6190 and reverse that important policy change. If we want to
6191 continue to lead the world in emission reductions -- and we
6192 do -- and energy production -- and we do -- we must build our
6193 pipeline infrastructure to deliver American energy to all
6194 consumers.

6195 For my colleagues I urge a no vote on the amendment, Mr.
6196 Chairman, and I yield back.

6197 *Mr. Menendez. Will the gentleman yield?

6198 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6199 further discussion?

6200 The gentlelady from California is recognized.

6201 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
6202 word and speak in support of this amendment.

6203 As my colleague from New Jersey has explained, this bill
6204 would gut section 401 of the Clean Water Act. This will
6205 strip away states' authority to block projects that worsen
6206 water quality, endangering my constituents and Americans
6207 across the country. We are talking about clean water here.
6208 This is fundamental to public health.

6209 In California we know how precious water is. Nearly 40
6210 million Californians rely on it for drinking, farming, and
6211 daily living. It keeps our communities growing and our
6212 economy running. It grows fresh California fruit and
6213 vegetables for American kitchen tables across the country.
6214 It supports some of the most unique and beautiful natural
6215 wonders anywhere in the world. In California we do not take
6216 clean water for granted. We have spent decades carefully
6217 managing our water supply, and we are not about to let
6218 Republicans take that away.

6219 These Republicans' attack on clean water are all too

6220 familiar. But it reveals a striking hypocrisy. My
6221 Republican colleagues are tripping over themselves to defend
6222 states' rights until states use that authority to protect the
6223 environment. When conservative states sue to block Federal
6224 environment laws, it is freedom. But where are those
6225 tireless defenders of liberty when states like California
6226 assert their right to clean water and clean air?

6227 It turns out there isn't really -- this really isn't
6228 about freedom or states' rights. It is all just a guise to
6229 strip away environmental protections that inconvenience big
6230 oil and other polluting corporations. Unfortunately, this is
6231 all part of a trend. Just two weeks ago Republicans stripped
6232 California of its authority to clean up vehicle pollution in
6233 our state, despite the non-partisan Government Accounting
6234 Office and the state senate parliamentary ruling that this
6235 move was illegal. What happened to states' rights? What
6236 happened to Federal overreach?

6237 Once again, Republicans are making clear they will break
6238 the law and overturn decades of precedent. They will abandon
6239 their principles and sell out their constituents just to keep
6240 fueling oil companies' greed.

6241 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I
6242 yield back the balance of my time.

6243 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back the balance of
6244 her time. Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

6245 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Virginia seek
6246 recognition?

6247 *Ms. McClellan. Speaking to the amendment.

6248 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized.

6249 *Ms. McClellan. Again, read the language of the bill.
6250 The bill does not say this prohibits states from denying
6251 projects solely based on political reasons. It says they are
6252 not going to be involved to begin with.

6253 And water quality matters. I will take you back to the
6254 Mountain Valley pipeline. Because of a poorly planned
6255 construction plan over unique terrain, MVP accrued over 350
6256 violations of water quality protections in Virginia. That
6257 wasn't political. You had residents who saw flooding, new
6258 erosion pattern, the death of livestock on their properties
6259 because they were drinking poisoned water. And this bill
6260 basically says to a state, you have no ability to look at
6261 this project to determine whether it is going to impact water
6262 quality in your state, and that is just simply taking a
6263 chainsaw to where, if there is a problem, a scalpel will do.
6264 But that is apparently theme of 2025.

6265 And with that I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

6266 *Mr. Menendez. I thank my colleague for yielding. I
6267 just have a question for my colleague from Texas just on a
6268 quick search.

6269 The Internet would suggest that you are a vocal advocate

6270 for state rights, that you have been quoted as saying,
6271 "Federal regulation is killing the economic engine that keeps
6272 our nation great and running.'" I am just curious. Are you
6273 an advocate for state rights or are you not? It is a yes-or-
6274 no question if you would like to answer.

6275 *Mr. Weber. I am just glad you can read. I yield back.

6276 *Mr. Menendez. Well, thank you. But if you don't want
6277 to answer the question -- because the amendment is simply
6278 titled, "Preserving State Authority.'" So if you want to be
6279 consistent with states' rights, this is an easy amendment to
6280 support. If you choose not to, then I think it just shows
6281 your constituents how you are inconsistent based on whether
6282 you are serving big oil or serving your constituents'
6283 benefit.

6284 I yield back.

6285 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
6286 further discussion on the amendment?

6287 *Ms. McClellan. I yield back.

6288 *Mr. Latta. Hearing none, no further discussion, the
6289 vote occurs on the amendment. A roll call vote has been
6290 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

6291 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

6292 *Mr. Weber. As one who can read, I say no.

6293 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

6294 Mr. Palmer?

6295 [No response.]

6296 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

6297 *Mr. Allen. No.

6298 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

6299 Mr. Balderson?

6300 *Mr. Balderson. No.

6301 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

6302 Mr. Pfluger?

6303 [No response.]

6304 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

6305 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

6306 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

6307 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

6308 [No response.]

6309 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

6310 *Mr. James. No.

6311 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

6312 Mr. Bentz?

6313 *Mr. Bentz. No.

6314 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

6315 Mr. Fry?

6316 *Mr. Fry. No.

6317 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

6318 Ms. Lee?

6319 [No response.]

6320 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6321 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6322 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
6323 Mr. Rulli?
6324 [No response.]
6325 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
6326 *Mr. Evans. No.
6327 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6328 Mr. Goldman?
6329 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6330 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6331 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6332 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6333 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6334 Mr. Guthrie?
6335 *The Chair. No.
6336 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
6337 Ms. Castor?
6338 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
6339 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6340 Mr. Peters?
6341 *Mr. Peters. Yes.
6342 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6343 Mr. Menendez?
6344 *Mr. Menendez. As someone who can both read and

6345 recognize inconsistencies across the aisle, I vote aye.

6346 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

6347 Mr. Mullin?

6348 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

6349 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

6350 Ms. McClellan?

6351 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

6352 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

6353 Ms. DeGette?

6354 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

6355 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

6356 Ms. Matsui?

6357 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

6358 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

6359 Mr. Tonko?

6360 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

6361 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

6362 Mr. Veasey?

6363 [No response.]

6364 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?

6365 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

6366 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

6367 Mrs. Fletcher?

6368 [No response.]

6369 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

6370 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6371 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6372 Mr. Auchincloss?
6373 [No response.]
6374 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6375 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6376 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6377 Chairman Latta?
6378 *Mr. Latta. Aye. I am sorry, no.
6379 [Laughter.]
6380 *Mr. Latta. No.
6381 *Ms. Castor. Oh, come on.
6382 *Mr. Latta. No.
6383 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes no.
6384 *Mr. Latta. Do we have any members -- the gentleman
6385 from Alabama.
6386 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
6387 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
6388 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6389 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Texas.
6390 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.
6391 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
6392 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
6393 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to
6394 record their vote?

6395 Hearing none, the clerk will report the tally.

6396 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 11
6397 ayes and 15 noes.

6398 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The amendment is not
6399 agreed to.

6400 Are there any further amendments?

6401 Hearing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
6402 3668.

6403 All those in favor -- a roll call vote has been
6404 requested. The clerk will report -- will call the roll.

6405 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

6406 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

6407 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

6408 Mr. Palmer?

6409 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

6410 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

6411 Mr. Allen?

6412 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

6413 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

6414 Mr. Balderson?

6415 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

6416 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

6417 Mr. Pfluger?

6418 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

6419 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

6420 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6421 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6422 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6423 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6424 [No response.]
6425 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6426 *Mr. James. Aye.
6427 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6428 Mr. Bentz?
6429 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6430 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6431 Mr. Fry?
6432 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
6433 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
6434 Ms. Lee?
6435 [No response.]
6436 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6437 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
6438 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
6439 Mr. Rulli?
6440 [No response.]
6441 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
6442 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
6443 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
6444 Mr. Goldman?

6445 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
6446 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
6447 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6448 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
6449 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
6450 Mr. Guthrie?
6451 *The Chair. Aye.
6452 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
6453 Ms. Castor?
6454 *Ms. Castor. No.
6455 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
6456 Mr. Peters?
6457 *Mr. Peters. No.
6458 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
6459 Mr. Menendez?
6460 *Mr. Menendez. No.
6461 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
6462 Mr. Mullin?
6463 *Mr. Mullin. No.
6464 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
6465 Ms. McClellan?
6466 *Ms. McClellan. No.
6467 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
6468 Ms. DeGette?
6469 *Ms. DeGette. No.

6470 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
6471 Ms. Matsui?
6472 *Ms. Matsui. No.
6473 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
6474 Mr. Tonko?
6475 *Mr. Tonko. No.
6476 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
6477 Mr. Veasey?
6478 [No response.]
6479 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
6480 *Ms. Schrier. No.
6481 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
6482 Mrs. Fletcher?
6483 [No response.]
6484 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6485 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
6486 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
6487 Mr. Auchincloss?
6488 [No response.]
6489 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6490 *Mr. Pallone. No.
6491 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
6492 Chairman Latta?
6493 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
6494 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta votes aye.

6495 *Mr. Latta. Do we have any members wishing to record
6496 their vote?

6497 The clerk will report the roll.

6498 *The Clerk. Chairman Latta, on that vote there were 15
6499 ayes and 11 noes.

6500 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The ayes have it and
6501 the bill is adopted.

6502 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical
6503 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the
6504 subcommittee today.

6505 And I just want to say thank you very much for all the
6506 subcommittee members' attention today. I really appreciate
6507 it.

6508 And so ordered, and without objection the subcommittee
6509 stands adjourned.

6510 [Whereupon, at 3:00 p.m., the subcommittee was
6511 adjourned.]