



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

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**Floor Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Floor Consideration of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and
Infrastructure Act of 2015**

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when Chairman Upton and I first talked about energy legislation, I was encouraged that we would be working together to develop a consensus, bipartisan bill. In the grand tradition of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, that is what we started to do. Spending months negotiating over language and finally reporting a bill from Subcommittee on a voice vote in July. That bill was modest but bipartisan, and was the result of good faith cooperation.

Unfortunately, that effort fell apart. H.R. 8 is not a bipartisan, consensus bill. Instead, the House is taking up a backward-looking piece of energy legislation at a time we need to move forward. H.R. 8 undermines the progress we've made in deploying the sustainable clean energy economy of the future. Although the title for H.R. 8 suggests we are authorizing improvements in energy infrastructure, the bill provides no funding or initiatives to address some of the significant energy infrastructure issues we are facing.

Meanwhile, the bill has only gotten worse since it left the committee, with an Upton managers amendment that strips out the few good provisions that remained. This so-called energy bill does nothing for solar, wind, or any other clean energy technology.

And to top it off, the Republicans deleted a whole title of the bill written primarily by Subcommittee Ranking Member Rush: the 21st Century Workforce initiative. That title created a new program at DOE to help minorities, women and veterans find work and build careers in the energy industry. This was something that Republicans praised throughout the Committee process. In fact, the Energy Subcommittee Chairman even praised that title last night during testimony before the Rules Committee.

Yet, the bill before us doesn't have that provision. What does that say about Republicans so-called commitment to expanding job opportunities in the energy sector for minorities, women

and those who have served our country? Unfortunately, it says all too much and none of it is good.

H.R. 8 has one central theme binding its titles: an unerring devotion to the energy of the past. Provision after provision favors an energy policy dominated by fossil fuels and unnecessary energy use. It is the Republican Party's 19th century vision for the future of U.S. energy policy in the 21st century.

The Administration opposes this bill. If it reaches the President's desk, it will be vetoed. I, too, oppose H.R. 8 and I urge my colleagues to reject this attempt to roll back progress in energy efficiency and clean energy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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