



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2015

CONTACT
Christine Brennan — (202) 225-5735

Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Hearing on “Strategic Petroleum Reserve Discussion Draft and Title IV
Energy Efficiency”

(As Delivered)

April 30, 2015

Mr. Chairman, I think I have made clear that I am interested in working with you and Chairman Upton on energy legislation. But I am concerned about the format of today’s hearing. I can’t recall a time when this Subcommittee has crammed two completely unrelated topics into one hearing. This does a real disservice to Members on both sides of the aisle and to the subject matter itself. Both these subjects are important and really warrant, not only separate legislative hearings, but they also should be preceded by thorough oversight.

With regard to the specific proposals before us, I recognize they do not represent anything more than discussion drafts of potential legislative language that could go into an energy bill. However, as this efficiency title is currently constituted, I would not be in a position to support it or to recommend that others support it.

In particular, I am opposed to language in the discussion draft that repeals Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush. Section 433 established groundbreaking energy efficiency performance standards for the design of new Federal buildings and those Federal buildings undergoing major renovations, rightly ensuring that new federal building be designed to result in decreased consumption of fossil fuels.

Second, the draft would prohibit DOE from promulgating a final rule updating efficiency standards for gas furnaces until an advisory group completes an analysis and determination. I certainly understand that there are concerns out there, but stakeholders had been working toward a resolution mutually agreeable to all parties. Now, however, some stakeholders apparently decided to try to do an end run by proposing this language halting DOE's efficiency efforts from moving forward. The draft sets up an opponent-dominated advisory panel and gives more weight to the anti-efficiency factors being examined in the analysis. In my opinion, this greatly sets back any progress made toward good faith efforts to sincerely resolve concerns with the DOE's proposal.

The building code efficiency provisions in the draft is another area of great concern to me. As currently outlined, changes to DOE's standards authority in this area would do great harm to what has been a very successful and impactful program.

That said, I want to make clear that I do believe there is a sincere effort on both sides to try to find common ground and I remain optimistic that we can develop a bipartisan energy

package. We are early in our process and there are many ideas from both sides of the aisle that have not yet been considered. In raising these issues upfront, I hope that we can have a more concerted bipartisan collaboration moving forward.

Mr. Chairman, last week, the Obama Administration released its first installment of the Quadrennial Energy Review. This is a serious government-wide effort to look at key aspects of the nation's energy infrastructure contains many useful insights, including some recommendations that may require legislation.

We need to review that report carefully because I think it provides us with an opportunity for our committee to work closely with the Administration to put together meaningful energy legislation that addresses the four areas of your "Architecture of Abundance" framework and that the President will sign.

Let me thank you again for holding this hearing, for your hard work in bringing these provisions forward, and for your willingness to work with us to make this into a product that we might all be able to support.