

GREG WALDEN, OREGON
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Chairman Shimkus:

We have been notified of your intent to hold a markup in the Subcommittee on Environment on Thursday, June 15, 2017 to consider at least three bills: the Ozone Standards Implementation Act, a Discussion Draft on Brownfields Reauthorization, and another discussion draft entitled the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act. While legislative hearings have been held on each of these bills, none of the hearings included agency witnesses to provide the Trump Administration's perspective or engage in a real-time dialogue with Members on the legislation to be considered.

We respectfully request that this markup be postponed indefinitely, until such time as the appropriate federal agencies have testified before the Subcommittee to express their views on the legislation and the subject matter addressed by the bills. Members deserve the opportunity to receive testimony from the relevant federal agencies and ask questions regarding critical issues and the potential impact of legislation under consideration. This is particularly true as the Committee considers appropriate authorization levels for programs that the Administration has targeted for cuts in the President's dangerous and shortsighted budget.

We have seen a frustrating trend during this Congress with the Committee holding numerous oversight and legislative hearings without witnesses from the Administration. At the outset, we were told that this was because the Administration was still working through the confirmation process for senior leadership positions at federal agencies. However, it is now June and no longer reasonable to expect Members on either side of the aisle to accept that as an excuse for the Administration's failure to participate in this vital part of the legislative process.

We urge you to schedule legislative hearings at which members will have the opportunity to engage with agency representatives on these three important pieces of legislation. These bills touch on important public health, energy and environmental issues: they should not be rushed through Committee without the necessary process or consideration in service of an arbitrary deadline. It is critical for Members to have an accurate understanding of the appropriate agencies' views on legislation before the Subcommittee proceeds with a markup.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Frank Pallone, Jr. in blue ink.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member

Handwritten signature of Paul Tonko in blue ink.

Paul Tonko
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Environment