



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Click [here](#) to watch the hearing. Additional materials, including a background memo and witness testimony, can be found [here](#).

**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Hearing on “Quadrennial Energy Review and Related Discussion Drafts”**

Thank you Chairman Whitfield and Ranking Member Rush. Let me begin by welcoming Secretary Moniz back to the Committee and congratulating you on completing the first installment of the Quadrennial Energy Review. It’s a truly comprehensive look at our nation’s energy infrastructure, and its recommendations will help us chart a path forward in the rapidly changing energy sector.

This installment relates to the “Transportation, Storage and Distribution” of energy. These “TS&D” connections between suppliers and users can impact our energy reliability and security, and affect our ability to meet environmental and economic goals.

TS&D infrastructure is vulnerable to a wide and expanding array of threats – from natural disasters to physical and cyber-attacks, so it’s important we thoroughly understand these vulnerabilities and how to mitigate their impacts. At the same time, its modernization can help achieve meaningful greenhouse gas reductions and other environmental goals, while enhancing safety, security and reliability.

Ultimately, the QER represents the forward thinking we need to ensure a smarter, more resilient, cost-effective and environmentally sound energy system for the future. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Secretary, to translate these important ideas into legislation and law.

I wish I could be as upbeat in discussing the Majority’s “Energy Diplomacy” discussion draft. Rather than building on the strong relationships with our North American neighbors, the Majority has chosen to resurrect controversial legislative proposals that have already drawn Democratic concerns and presidential veto threats.

For example, the bill would eliminate the current presidential permitting process for liquid and gas pipelines and electric transmission lines that cross the U.S. border with Mexico or

Canada. And, it replaces the current process with one that effectively rubber-stamps permit applications and eliminates any meaningful environmental review.

While it now would only take effect after President Obama leaves office and specifically excludes the Keystone XL pipeline, it still appears to allow TransCanada to avail itself of the new process by reapplying with a revised route.

The provision also limits federal approval and environmental review to the small segment of projects that physically crosses the national border. It also creates a rebuttable presumption that these projects are in the public interest, shifting the burden of proof to project opponents. This all but guarantees permit approval and virtually eliminates the opportunity for protective permit conditions.

The draft bill also recycles LNG export language designed to address nonexistent delays at DOE. In fact, DOE recently testified that: “right now there are zero applicants sitting in front of us for a decision ... the last application that ... came out of FERC, we turned that around in 1 day.” Nonetheless, the bill would make changes to an otherwise successful process.

And finally, another provision would create a task force burdening federal energy regulatory actions with additional red-tape and undermining environmental considerations. In fact, it speaks volumes that the very agencies tasked with natural resource and environmental management, like EPA and DOI, are excluded from the task force.

I hope this Committee can start to work toward consensus legislation instead of resurrecting problematic issues of the past. Thank you.

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