

Statement of Subcommittee Chair Bobby Rush (as prepared for delivery)
Markup on Ten Energy Bills
E&C Subcommittee on Energy

May 16, 2019

I would like to welcome everyone to today's markup on ten bills covering areas of energy efficiency, workforce development, and cybersecurity.

Before we begin, I would like to commend all of the sponsors and cosponsors for all of their hard work in introducing each of these bills.

Most of the bills we will be marking up today enjoy bipartisan support and we look forward to working with the minority side to continue to resolve any issues in hopes that we can come to an agreement on each of these bills by the time we reach a full committee markup.

I strongly believe that each of the bills before us will help to strengthen the economy and combat climate change, while also putting consumers first by investing in a skilled, diverse energy workforce and protecting the nation's electric grid and pipeline infrastructure.

On the energy efficiency side, we have bills that would reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Additionally, we will be marking up legislation to reauthorize grants for improving the energy efficiency of public buildings, as well as a bill that would establish a smart energy and water efficiency management program.

In addition, we will mark up legislation that would establish an initiative to implement smart building technology in Federal agencies, while demonstrating policies and best practices for transitioning to smart buildings under the umbrella of DOE's Better Buildings Challenge.

We will also be marking up my workforce bill, H.R. 1315, which would establish a comprehensive, nationwide program to improve the education and training for underrepresented groups in order to increase the number of skilled workers trained to work in energy-related industries, including manufacturing, engineering, construction, and retrofitting jobs.

I want to thank Ranking Member Upton and his staff for working with my office to strengthen the bill so we can ultimately move it forward through the Committee with bipartisan support.

Finally, we will also be marking up a series of cybersecurity bills that all enjoy overwhelming bipartisan support.

Each of these cybersecurity bills will help to protect the nation's electric grid and pipeline infrastructure and I want to thank Mr. Walberg for working with my office on H.R. 362, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

This bill would create a new DOE Assistant Secretary position with jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.

It is important that we bring each of these cybersecurity bills up through the Subcommittee and full Committee, as a way to protect our jurisdiction and bring them to the Floor of the House without interference from any other Committees that would seek to step on our turf.

With that I yield the remainder of my time and I now recognize the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. Upton for five minutes.

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