

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
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November 3, 2017

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

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Chairman Upton:

We write in regard to the upcoming Energy Subcommittee legislative hearing on H.R. ___, the “Energy Star Reform Act of 2017” and H.R. 3477, the “Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act.” While we appreciate the adherence to regular order, we are deeply concerned that no witnesses from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Department of Energy (DOE) will be present 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 hearing be postponed until representatives from EPA and DOE are available to testify 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 relevant federal agencies and engage in real-time dialogue with Administration officials regarding critical issues and the potential impact of legislation under consideration. This is especially true for the Energy Star Reform Act, which would completely upend the operation and administration of the Energy Star Program. All told, these bills would make substantial changes to the popular Energy Star Program and efficiency standards for ceiling fans, and should not be rushed through the Committee process without adequate input from the agencies tasked with executing these potential changes.

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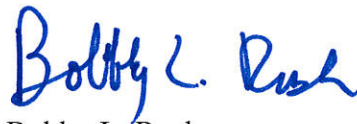
We have seen a frustrating trend during this Congress that the Committee has held numerous legislative hearings without witnesses from the Administration. At the outset, we were told that this was because the Administration was still working through the confirmation process for senior leadership positions at federal agencies. However, it is now November and that excuse is no longer justified. We have repeatedly raised our objections to allowing this Administration to shirk its duty to participate in this vital part of the legislative process.

We know you share in our frustration, so we strongly urge you to reschedule this legislative hearing, to a time when Members can engage with representatives from both EPA and DOE on these proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush" in a cursive style.

Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy