**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**

**of**

**Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Ranking Member Paul Tonko**

***Markup of 28 Bills, Full Committee***

**March 20, 2024**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Unhealthy air quality is incredibly dangerous to human health. And as we generate more robust and precise scientific evidence, our understanding of these health effects becomes more and more clear. That is why the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are so important.

This standard setting process requires regular reviews and updates to ensure public health is adequately protected. And this process has been incredibly effective. We have been able to significantly grow our economy while reducing pollution and protecting Americans.

But today, we will consider the Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024, which would completely undermine the Clean Air Act. This bill fails to appreciate just how bad unhealthy air is, and that so many Americans live with unsafe air today. There is no doubt that numerous provisions in this proposal will make EPA less likely to strengthen standards in the future, even if the scientific evidence would warrant it.

So, I would encourage members to oppose this bill, and instead, celebrate the Clean Air Act. The existing process has a 50-plus year track record of success, driving innovation in pollution control technologies and enabling the cost-effective reduction of pollution. There is no doubt that the progress that has been made would not have been possible absent this law, and there is clearly still work to be done.

This bill will take us backwards, and I must encourage members to oppose it. Despite my disappointment with the Environment Subcommittee’s bill, I would like to express my appreciation to Chairs Rodgers and Guthrie, Ranking Members Pallone and Eshoo, and the committee members and staff who have worked to advance three critical Alzheimer’s bills today. I also want to thank New York’s Capital Region community living with Alzheimer’s who inspire me to help lead this fight.

I see your pain and struggles, but also your strength and resilience. I look forward to seeing us move forward the National Alzheimer’s Project Act Reauthorization Act, the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act, and the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Reauthorization Act.

These are meaningful bills that will bring investments, coordination, and hope to so many Americans. Thank you again, Madam Chair. With that, I yield back.