

Testimony from Congressman Emanuel Cleaver
Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day Hearing
December 12, 2025

Good morning Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today about a major priority for my Congressional district.

In 2022, when Congress passed the *Inflation Reduction Act*, one of the most exciting provisions for myself and the members of my community was the \$7 billion investment to expand the deployment of solar energy for working families.

My excitement was high because with those dollars, we could respond to the fact that energy prices, particularly electricity, are increasing significantly across the U.S. due to natural gas costs, grid upgrades, inflation, and extreme weather.

This program, known as **Solar for All**, would have lowered electricity bills, created thousands of good-paying jobs, boosted American manufacturing, and strengthened our electric grid.

The EPA projected that it would bring solar energy to 900,000 households and save Americans an estimated \$350 million every year on energy costs¹.

At a time when families are struggling to keep up with rising utility bills, including electric prices that have climbed more than twice as fast as inflation, this investment in residential solar energy would have provided meaningful relief to my constituents and families across the country.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-7-billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential>

And the impact would have been felt most by low-income and disadvantaged households, who have been the most affected by soaring energy costs, and are often the first to face consequences of environmental degradation.

In my community back in Missouri, people don't see investments like this as a Republican issue or a Democratic issue.

The people that I talk to in Western Missouri see investments in their communities and don't even think of politics.

I've not once heard a Kansas Citian or an individual from Independence say: "Well that bridge over there is a Democratic bridge" or "That road is a Republican road."

To my constituents, whom I have also served during my 8 years as Mayor, infrastructure is above politics.

A newly paved road is simply a safer way to get to work; a repaired bridge is a lifeline to small businesses in communities like Marshall, Missouri; and a solar farm means lower electricity bills for all of us.

I would expect any lawmaker in my seat to try to bring money back home to invest in our communities, regardless of partisan label.

And to be clear: these investments were supporting families and workers in states like Missouri and Mississippi just as much as they were in states like New York and New Jersey.

Which is why I am imploring this committee to remove partisan politics from deliberative policymaking—and why I am encouraging this committee to revive the Solar For All Program that will bring tremendous benefits to all of our communities.

When Missouri was designated to receive \$156 million to deliver residential solar energy across our great state, my district quickly jumped into gear to figure out how to best take advantage of the federal investment we expected—and planned—to see.

Investments like this excited the labor community, the business community, and everybody in between, because they bring benefits to families, workers, small businesses and all of the above.

They lower costs, boost wages, generate economic activity, and make our communities healthier by combating pollution.

When the news broke that these promised investments were being revoked, we were all deeply disappointed—but I refuse to give up on these communities and the benefits they were set to receive.

As this Committee continues to organize the priorities that will consume your attention in the coming year, I encourage you to reauthorize and restore the Solar For All program, as well as the investments that were taken from communities like mine.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I yield back the balance of my time.