

E&C Member Day Hearing
The Honorable Luz M. Rivas (CA29)

TALKING POINTS – Remarks:

- Thank you, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone for hosting today's Member Day hearing.
- My name is Luz Rivas, and I am an MIT-trained electrical engineer, STEM educator, and nonprofit leader.
- But my most meaningful job is representing the district I was born in and grew up in.
- California's 29th Congressional District – the district once represented by former Energy and Commerce member, Tony Cardenas, and the one we both call home – is in the San Fernando Valley.
- It's home to hospitals, a pipeline of a young, diverse technological workforce, and energy facilities.
- However, for too long, communities like mine have been forgotten.
- We have been forced to store the debris and waste from polluters.

- We have been forced to witness firsthand how polluters put corporate profits over people.
- This has impacted my neighbors' access to clean air and safe drinking water.
- It has led to many of my constituents living with generational health problems at disproportionately higher rates than the surrounding areas, including higher rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases.
- This Administration wants to empower polluters to continue using our backyards as their playgrounds with no consequences.
- I refuse to let that happen.
- I am here in Congress because communities like mine deserve a voice, and someone who will fight for them against this Administration's polluter-first agenda.
- Next week, I will be introducing legislation to ensure we have the data and tools needed to identify disproportionately burdened communities and prioritize resources accordingly.

- My Environmental Justice Screening Tool Act will be an important resource in helping communities disproportionately impacted by environmental, climate change, human health, and economic factors.
- This legislation will help make sure the federal government can properly and equitably prioritize funding to environmental justice communities, like mine.
- I hope to continue working with this Committee on the key issues that are impacting environmental justice communities, like those in the San Fernando Valley.
- I also hope to continue working with this Committee on another issue that has become increasingly important not just in the San Fernando Valley, but across the country: Artificial Intelligence.
- Through my experience as an engineer, I've seen how STEM and technology evolves at unprecedented speed.
- And this includes AI.

- AI is ***here***, and it is quickly reshaping how we work, how we learn, and how we communicate.
- At the rate at which AI and other emerging technologies evolve, we cannot afford to wait before any action is taken.
- That's why I was particularly concerned around the continued efforts by the Majority and the Trump Administration on enacting an AI moratorium that would limit states' ability to regulate AI.
- These attempts would have prevented states from writing or enacting their own AI laws for ten years.
- House Republicans' 10-year AI moratorium provision would leave us unprepared to tackle these challenges as they arise.
- I'm proud to have worked with this Committee to lead efforts on the House side to remove the AI moratorium from H.R. 1, and continued partnership with Committee Democratic leaders on recent efforts.

- Thank you, and I look forward to working with Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee this Congress to increase access to technology and improve the environment and well-being of our constituents.
- I yield back.