

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Doris Matsui**

Markup of 8 Bills, Subcommittee on Energy

November 19, 2025

If these bills are Republicans' answer to the rising cost of living, I'm afraid it's a joke—and a cruel one at that. With the exception of Mr. Tonko's bipartisan bill, most of the bills we're considering today are intended to gut federal energy efficiency standards.

Household electricity bills have gone up 11% on average since President Trump took office, and Republicans' answer is to make our home appliances less efficient? So, we have to pay even more for electricity? How does that make any sense? Today's energy efficiency standards save the average American household almost \$600 dollars a year. Across the country, that's more than \$100 billion dollars annually. In fact, the average energy usage of an American home has actually declined since the 1980s, thanks to energy efficiency standards.

If Republicans succeed in gutting these standards, American families will face even higher utility bills, making an already dire situation worse. According to a recent poll, 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills. That's almost a quarter of the United States. No one should have to choose between keeping the lights on and putting food on the table. This is a crisis, and it's going to get worse if we don't get serious about it.

The American people are tired of broken promises. President Trump ran on reducing the cost of living. But instead of working with Democrats on serious solutions, Republicans are still pursuing the same old culture-war nonsense. Meanwhile, President Trump is throwing lavish parties at Mar-a-Lago and showing off his new ballroom design to wealthy people.

I urge my colleagues to listen to their constituents because you might be surprised to learn that energy efficiency standards are extremely popular.

According to a Consumer Reports survey conducted earlier this year, 82% of Republican respondents agreed that home appliances should be required to achieve a minimum level of efficiency. Why are energy efficiency standards so popular? Because American families know they're saving money, plain and simple. Energy efficiency standards aren't just good policy. They're a lifeline to struggling families across this country.

So, I urge my Republican colleagues to set aside the culture-war and work with Democrats on serious bipartisan legislation, like Mr. Tonko's bill.