

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee Ranking Member Kathy Castor**

Markup of 13 Bills, Subcommittee on Energy

June 5, 2025

This committee has a responsibility to do everything that we can to ensure that electricity is affordable and our energy system is reliable. As the United States faces an unprecedented rise in electricity demand, we've heard repeatedly from witnesses before this committee about how the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy tax credits and funding initiatives are enabling the buildout that will power our AI data centers and manufacturing boom.

At the same time, working families across the country are struggling under the weight of sky-high utility bills and a changing climate. My neighbors back home in Florida are preparing right now for another dangerous hurricane season – while still rebuilding their lives from last year, when hotter temperatures supercharged Hurricanes Helene and Milton into superstorms.

My Tampa Bay neighbors want to use federal tax credits and rebates to rebuild in a more resilient way, a way that will save them money in the long run. Similarly, 73% of Americans are concerned about rising utility bills. Businesses large and small across the United States want to manufacture, build, and use cheap, clean energy – but Republicans are taking those opportunities are away from them.

I'm disappointed that the bills we're considering today fail to meet the challenges we face. While Republicans say they want to lower costs and build a more resilient energy system, what they are actually doing is sabotaging our efforts to unleash American energy dominance.

Two weeks ago, in the dead of night, House Republicans passed a bill that guts our American energy tax credits and funding programs. Republicans voted against 400,000 good paying jobs, many in their own districts, \$422 billion in investments, and instead chose to cede the clean energy revolution to competitors like China - all so that they could give a massive tax cut to the wealthy and well-connected.

Early analysis of the provisions of the Billionaire Boondoggle Bill paints a grim picture. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter six independent analyses into the record – each of which show that the bill will result in higher electricity costs and less cheap energy.

Let's dive into this. Total U.S. electricity demand is forecast to increase 15.8 percent, or 128 GW in the next four years. By gutting the clean energy generation tax credits and instituting unworkable restrictions, Republicans have ensured that the United States will decrease new electricity capacity additions by 302 GW by 2035 - enough to power 227 million homes. That

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means we will not build the energy to power US leadership in artificial intelligence or advanced manufacturing – and those sectors will move abroad.

Not only will we have less electricity – it will also be more expensive. These are costs that will be passed directly to American families. Their big ugly bill will increase average household energy costs by \$230 per year in 2035 – even if we account for increased U.S. oil and gas production.

My Republican colleagues have turned their backs on the fastest growing, cleanest, and cheapest sources of energy. Instead, today they've brought forward several bills that are a gift to Big Oil and Gas.

Over the past few months, we've seen that FERC and DOE already have the authority to adjust interconnection queues or delay power plant closures to maintain reliability.

These bills are unnecessary, heavy-handed mandates that threaten innovation and competition in energy markets. They will add billions of dollars in cost to already rising energy prices, while doing nothing to safeguard grid reliability.

I appreciate the inclusion today of Congresswoman Schrier's Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act – an important effort to provide Congress with more insight on a significant source of clean, firm power.

However, I am disappointed that Republicans are unwilling to consider the Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act in today's mark-up – despite the supportive testimony we heard in our April hearing about how it could bring all types of generators online quickly.

I still believe this Committee can work together to advance policies that deliver more affordable energy to our neighbors back home with a modern and reliable grid. But this requires real solutions that meet the magnitude of the challenge we face today.

I yield back.