

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Kathy Castor

***Hearing on "Growing the Domestic Energy Sector Supply Chain and Manufacturing Base:
Are Federal Efforts Working?"***

May 23, 2023

There is a good news story emerging across America as a result of the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS & Science Act. It's a story of cheaper & cleaner energy – money back into the pockets of Americans at a time they need it. It is a story of new jobs and factories and opportunities – magnets for private sector capital and investment. It is a critical story of American competitiveness as China has control of too many of the critical supply chains and building blocks of clean energy. It is a story of empowerment of our partners at the state and local level to help them build healthier communities.

I believe in America and American workers. I know we can out compete any nation in the world and the IRA, BIL and CHIPS & Science Act help level the playing field as China has made much larger investments in critical minerals and electric vehicles, often at an unfair advantage. Boosting America's competitiveness should not be a partisan issue. Outside of Congress, it is not. The announcements of new American factories for batteries, electric cars and trucks, solar manufacturing are so numerous they are difficult to keep up with. Since the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act, we've seen the creation of over 142,000 jobs, and over \$240 billion in new investment in American communities across 31 states. These are good-paying jobs in growing industries that will power the country's future and help us cut our climate pollution substantially. These investments will create even more jobs and unleash new technologies and domestic clean energy supply chains to give our neighbors a bright future.

Actually, most new factory announcements are happening in areas that are represented by Republicans who opposed the IRA and BIL. And that's okay. What is important is that we are rebuilding American manufacturing, spurring innovation, and creating resilient supply chains for critical minerals like lithium, for example, that are essential to manufacturing advanced energy storage and batteries. The Department of Energy, as we heard from Secretary Grandholm last week, is ramping up its efforts to lead an energy-secure sustainable economy. DOE is doing the hard work necessary to close the gap that emerged over decades due to the underinvestment in American industrial base.

Over the past few decades, China made large investments to take an early lead in the global energy supply chain and in clean energy. Smart, long-term investments in American ingenuity are how we will not only catch up but also remain competitive for generations. America can be the world leader in clean and renewable energy, new electric cars and trucks, and industrial manufacturing to lower costly climate pollution that is wreaking havoc in our communities back home.

Our allies want us to succeed because all people across the world are grappling with the harms and rising costs of climate change. That is why President Biden is committed to expanding our partnerships with our allies. Just this past weekend, Australia and the United States committed to enhance cooperation designed to advance ambitious climate and clean energy action this decade, at home and abroad. The framework intends to coordinate policies and investments to support the expansion and diversification of responsible clean energy and critical minerals supply chains, accelerate the development of markets for established and emerging technologies, meet the growing energy and adaptation needs of the Indo-Pacific, and enhance the region's role as a driver of resilient and sustainable global prosperity.

While these investments will revitalize American research, development, and manufacturing capabilities, they will also give other countries the ability to buy essential clean-energy materials and products from right here in America.

My Republican colleagues have consistently raised concerns about investing in America's future to ensure our continued energy security, build a durable competitive edge, bring outsourced manufacturing jobs back to the United States, and compete with China BUT House Republicans opposed the major investments made by Democrats last Congress at every opportunity.

Let's turn the page and work together to invest in American workers and competitiveness, including the new jobs in partnership with DOE. Otherwise, we will continue to fall behind and miss yet another opportunity to build a clean economy and lead the world in doing so.

Thank you, I yield back.