

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Debbie Dingell**

Markup of 11 Bills, Full Committee

January 21, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Before we move into today's markup, I want to step back and talk about what many of these bills would mean for the communities we represent. I am deeply concerned that several proposals before us would weaken long-standing environmental protections and tilt the balance away from public health and toward bad actors that have already shown they cannot be trusted.

Clean air and clean water are fundamental to public health. Today, more than 100 million Americans live in areas with unhealthy air. Air pollution is linked to cancer, heart disease, stroke, asthma, and premature death, and it disproportionately harms children, seniors, lower-income communities, and other vulnerable populations. These aren't just statistics, they are families that have to deal with higher medical bills and missed school days or — worse — their lives cut short.

For decades, environmental laws like the Clean Air Act have worked because they are grounded in science. Since the 1970s, air pollution has dropped by nearly 80 percent, even as our economy has grown dramatically. That is proof that strong environmental safeguards and economic growth are both achievable.

There are several bills on today's markup that would move us in the opposite direction. They would weaken national air quality standards, delay or avoid pollution controls, expand loopholes that allow dangerous emissions to go uncounted, and limit the federal government's ability to step in when states fail to protect their communities.

When communities across the country are grappling with PFAS contamination, lead in drinking water, wildfire smoke, and poor air quality, the answer cannot be to lower the bar and look the other way. We must hold polluters accountable with more oversight — not less.

And that is why I will not be supporting legislation that undermines the health of the American people. We need to preserve our clean air and clean water and continue the progress we've made over the decades. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to think carefully about the real-world consequences of these bills.

Thank you, M. Chair, and I yield back.