Committee on Energy and Commerce

Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Paul Tonko

Markup of 16 Bills, Full Committee

May 21, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am excited that the Committee will consider H.R. 2145, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act, which was advanced, as amended, by the Environment Subcommittee last week. This bipartisan bill would make important improvements to our nation's recycling systems. It would establish a pilot program at the EPA to award grants to improve recycling accessibility in underserved and rural communities. It would also require EPA to collect and publish data on recycling and composting rates to provide an accurate reflection of the effectiveness of our systems.

While this bill will not fix all of the issues with our nation's waste management system, it is an important first step. I look forward to supporting this bill, and I hope we can continue to work together to address other waste issues facing our country.

Unfortunately, today we are not taking up a bipartisan bill to reauthorize EPA's brownfields program. I appreciate that we were able to reach agreement on most aspects of the bill considered at Subcommittee but continue to have disagreements around authorization levels. EPA's program is too important to too many communities, so I hope that we can ultimately reach agreement on funding levels that accurately reflect the needs of our state and local governments.

Finally, I am very proud of my work on several bipartisan health bills that will be considered today, including the School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act. I will have more to say on these bills later, but I look forward to support these bills today.

Thank you. I yield back.