

**House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy Hearing:
"Powering America's Future: Unleashing American Energy"**

February 5, 2025

OPENING STATEMENT

Subcommittee Chairman Bob Latta (R-OH) stated that a key priority for the subcommittee will be to review “the Biden administration’s actions that have undermined our economic and national security.” He noted that in the previous Congress, he asked every single witness that appeared before the subcommittee whether the United States needs more or less energy, and that all witnesses responded that more energy is needed. He said that U.S. data center load growth is projected to double or triple by 2028, according to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory.

Subcommittee Chairman Latta stated that intermittent energy sources, like wind and solar, have “a role to play in a diverse energy mix.” However, he stressed the need to continue to support baseload power provided by fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and hydropower. He added that “when it comes to the AI (artificial intelligence) race, all energy solutions need to be on the table.”

Subcommittee Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL) stated that Congress has “an incredible opportunity to build on the successes of the past few years and the advancements in lower cost, clean energy, grid resilience, innovation, and efficiency.” She took pride in the “new factories, jobs, and the progress” facilitated by *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) and the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA). She also noted that over 750 clean energy projects have been announced in the past few years, as well as roughly 400,000 new jobs and approximately \$420 billion in private sector investments thanks to the two laws.

She expressed that early actions by the Trump administration are “cause for concern,” specifically as it relates to the recent firing of the Inspector General at DOE. She added that “nothing in the early Trump executive orders is designed to lower energy prices or help hardworking Americans.”

Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor called the new administration’s recent actions “a gift to big oil companies, designed to boost their profits, at the expense of working families in this country.” She stated that domestic production of oil, and other energy sources, is at record highs, and that “America is a dominant energy superpower.”

She criticized the Trump administration’s mission to increase exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and stated that recent studies that “increasing LNG exports will raise energy prices for American families” and “raises costs on small businesses that rely heavily on it.”

Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor added that China is the largest LNG importer in the world and that “the least we could do, would be to ensure that our LNG exports are not subsidizing China’s industrial buildout at the cost of higher domestic prices for Americans.”

Lastly, she celebrated a bipartisan commitment within the subcommittee to “strengthen the aging electric grid” as well as “next generation nuclear power, critical minerals, and battery recycling.”

Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY) noted that a priority for the committee will be to “enable the nation to grow, prosper, and assert global leadership in an adversarial world.” He stated that this hearing represents the beginning of discussions and exploration regarding the “enormous amount of energy” needed for AI.

He said that grid and energy experts have warned the American public that “the frequency of power outages will only increase if state and federal renewable energy policies continue to drive the premature retirement of traditional baseload generation.” **Full Committee Chairman Guthrie** added that the new and growing demand for advanced and manufacturing capacity in data centers “have exposed the limits of our current energy systems.”

Subcommittee Vice Chairman Randy Weber (R-TX) stated that his district is “home to seven ports, three LNG facilities, seven of the largest refineries in the United States, and 60% of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).” He added that his district was “ground zero for the Biden administration’s anti-fossil fuel agenda,” which includes the ban on new LNG export facilities, “SPR gimmicks that drained our capacity” and the “overburdensome regulatory environment designed to drive out fossil fuels.” He noted that the fossil energy projects in his district provide many community benefits and stated that the return of President Trump to the White House provides the nation with the “opportunity to once again regain control over our own energy future.”

Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) criticized President Trump for “blatantly breaking the law” by freezing billions of federal dollars for energy investments authorized by Congress in the IIJA and the IRA and directing the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) to halt funding across the government. He noted that the Democratic leadership on the committee is sending a letter to DOE, and other agencies within the committee’s jurisdiction, “demanding that congressionally approved funds are distributed immediately.” He also criticized House Republicans for being “virtually silent” regarding the Trump administration’s recent actions on the disbursement of funding. He added that repealing the clean energy provisions in the IRA could lead to a 10% increase in U.S. electricity bills.

Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone stated that Republicans claim to support “an all-of-the-above energy strategy, yet they are now trying to kill solar and wind, both onshore and offshore.” He added that grid operators across the country are “sounding the alarm” and that every new electricity generator is needed to address growing demand as soon as possible. He noted that, according to the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, over 95% of the generation in the interconnection queue is wind, solar, and batteries. He stated that “if Republicans are really interested in unleashing American energy, they should work with us (Democrats) to clear interconnection queues and let resources get on the grid as quickly as possible.” He also expressed interest in collaborating in a bipartisan manner on policies to support energy infrastructure, including transmission and transformers.

WITNESS TESTIMONY

Ms. Amanda Eversole (Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer – American Petroleum Institute) took pride in the American Petroleum Institute’s (API) development of over 800 standards to enhance operational safety, environmental protection, and sustainability across

140 countries. She noted that promoting technological, environmental, and regulatory innovation is a priority for API and stated that “oil and gas fuel our economy, secure our future, and keep America moving.” *Ms. Eversole* said that the results of the 2024 Election are a clear indication of the American people’s energy priorities, and now, Congress can advance these priorities through “common sense policies” that support energy growth, while continuing our shared commitment to environmental performance and innovation.

Ms. Eversole noted that greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. are at a generational low, “and the biggest reason for that was the replacement of high-emitting fuels with natural gas.” She raised that API recently released a [five-point policy roadmap](#): (1) protect consumer choice; (2) bolster U.S. geopolitical strength; (3) leverage U.S. natural resources; (4) reform the U.S. permitting system; and (5) sensible tax policy for sustained energy investments.

[Mr. Gary Arnold](#) (**Business Manager – Denver Pipefitters Local 208**) noted that the jobs in his sector are crucial for economic development and energy security, and provide the needed financial stability that families need, “without crippling student loan debt.” He stated pipefitters support efforts to make energy cleaner, but they take “exception to being asked to suffer lost jobs opportunities, higher energy prices and power outages because of opposition to projects from fringe groups, rooted in scare tactics and unrealistic solutions to real-world energy demands.”

Mr. Arnold stated that he does not understand why it takes several years to permit a natural gas pipeline in “a country that is sitting in a mountain of reserves, while at the same time, we are seeing electricity prices rise.” He also said that he cannot comprehend why there is opposition to the expansion of nuclear energy, since nuclear power has been deployed “for over half a century without a single injury or fatality.”

Mr. Arnold expressed optimism about President Trump’s recent executive actions and stated that it is “vital to examine regulations and policies that undermine the development of critical energy sources like natural gas, oil, nuclear, biofuels, and geothermal, as well as new and promising sources, like blue hydrogen.” He also encouraged the Trump administration and Congress to build on the IRA and other laws that “are moving the ball forward in energy in important respects, for example, the IRA tax credits, loan guarantee authority and research, or the expansion of nuclear energy.” He specifically noted that the IRA’s expansion of the Section 45Q tax credit has led to a surge in development of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) systems.

[Mr. Tyler O’Connor](#) (**Partner – Crowell & Moring LLP**) served as a Democratic staffer for the House Energy and Commerce Committee during the 117th Congress. He stated that the nation is “at a crossroads,” it is “already producing record amounts of oil and gas, American manufacturing is booming thanks to the IRA and the IJA, and the country’s geopolitical adversaries are struggling to keep pace with American ingenuity and resolve.” He believes that the United States has already unleashed American energy, but there is still work to be done. He conveyed three points that he hopes the committee takes into consideration moving forward: (1) undermining the IRA and IJA would increase the cost of power and make it difficult to address growing load for AI and data centers; (2) pausing issuance of federal permits, repealing tax credits, and imposing tariffs will reduce energy infrastructure investments; and (3) there is a dire need for policies to support transmission infrastructure.

Mr. O'Connor noted that, in some areas, there is a shortage of critical grid infrastructure components and strongly recommended that the committee investigate the possible type of measures Congress can take to facilitate the domestic production of needed transformers, breakers, switch gear, and other components. He also highlighted the importance of keeping relevant agencies, like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), appropriately staffed.

Mr. O'Connor believes that the U.S. is the best country for energy companies to do business with, but noted that these companies need certainty as it relates to federal policy, especially as it relates to funding and tax. He added that, otherwise, the companies will invest their resources in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Brigham McCown (Senior Fellow and Director of Initiative on American Energy Security – The Hudson Institute) called energy “the glue that binds everything together.” He stated that the diverse set of energy sources in the U.S. represents economic and national security, calling it “the envy of the world.” He said that the key to maximizing the United States’ energy advantage is to ensure a predictable and stable policy environment.

Mr. McCown alluded to the importance of preserving relationships with foreign allies, like Ukraine and Japan, through the exports of different energy sources and components from the United States.

DISCUSSION

Trump Administration’s Recent Actions & Regulatory Certainty

Subcommittee Chairman Latta asked **Ms. Eversole** to speak about the role that long term regulatory certainty and predictability have on the investment decisions produced in delivering more energy. **Ms. Eversole** responded that market investments are driven by long term decisions and expressed interest in working on a bipartisan manner to ensure that regulatory frameworks last longer than 4-6 years.

Subcommittee Chairman Latta asked **Mr. Arnold** for his view on unlocking more investment capital on energy development through regulatory certainty and predictability. **Mr. Arnold** responded that unnecessary delays in energy infrastructure projects could lead to layoffs and negatively impact the workforce in different aspects, and therefore, certainty is critical for success.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor noted that independent researchers at Resources for the Future conducted modeling on the IRA benefits and concluded that over the next decade, American families will save significant amounts of money, up to \$278 billion. She asked **Mr. O'Connor** to expand on the impact that repealing the IRA would have on energy prices. **Mr. O'Connor** responded that a repeal of the IRA could lead to an average increase of 10% in energy prices across the country. **Mr. O'Connor** noted that states like Texas could experience even larger increases in energy prices. He also said that some companies were considering investing in domestic critical minerals, in response to incentives in the IRA, but the uncertainty that the Trump administration is causing may force them to invest in another country.

Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone asked *Mr. O'Connor* if repealing, or withholding funds from, the IRA and the IIJA would make the nation energy dominant or help in the case of an energy emergency. **Mr. O'Connor** responded in the negative, noting that energy projects are capital intensive, and many energy project developers are concerned about the uncertainty surrounding IRA and IIJA funding.

Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone asked *Mr. O'Connor* if tariffs on Mexican and Canadian energy increase or decrease costs for American families, and if they would make the United States energy secure. **Mr. O'Connor** responded that tariffs would increase costs in several respects, including gas prices, due to the heavy reliance on Canadian oil in some states within the Midwest.

Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) asked *Mr. Arnold* to discuss the benefits that the IRA and the IIJA have provided to American workers in the energy sector. **Mr. Arnold** responded that investing in all energy sources supported by the two laws should be on the table.

Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) strongly criticized the Trump administration's opposition to energy sources like wind and solar. She stated that renewable sources need to play a role in the U.S. energy future and asked *Mr. O'Connor* to explain why many companies are deciding to invest in sources like wind, solar, and battery storage. **Mr. O'Connor** responded that renewable sources cost less than other sources and can be brought online more quickly. He added that there is a shortage of gas turbines. **Representative Matsui** said that President Trump's recent actions do not reflect a commitment to an "all-of-the-above" approach to energy and noted that no provision in the IRA bans the production of fossil fuels.

Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) noted that energy companies and investors interested in building projects in the United States need certainty and predictability regarding the availability of federal resources to advance their projects and the uncertainty triggered by President Trump's actions to pause the disbursement of IRA and IIJA funding may lead to frustration in the private sector, and ultimately, a desire to invest in energy projects within other countries.

Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA) called the Trump administration's recent action pause the disbursement of IRA and IIJA funding "beyond reckless" and stated that "it kneecaps our efforts to unleash American energy production and independence." She also criticized the Trump administration's plan to "gut the federal workforce across the board" and expressed deep concerns about the negative impact it could have on the work done by the Bonneville Power Administration to promote power generation and address the congested interconnection transmission queue in the Pacific Northwest.

Representative Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), like other Democrats on the subcommittee, strongly criticized President Trump's recent actions regarding federal funding, especially clean energy funding. However, she expressed full commitment to working with Republicans to get permitting reform legislation enacted.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) alluded to the potential impacts of President Trump’s recently proposed tariffs against Mexico and Canada. She noted that roughly 60% of crude oil imported into the U.S. comes from Canada and approximately 10% comes from Mexico, leading her to conclude that tariffs against the two countries would lead to an increase in gasoline prices in the United States.

Representative Jake Auchincloss (D-MA) criticized President Trump’s recent actions in opposition to wind energy projects and the negative impact it will have on his constituents. He stated that the administration’s decision to broadly attack the wind energy sector should be concerning to other energy sectors and noted that if a Democratic White House decided to pause all domestic oil production projects, the American people would be very concerned.

Representative Marc Veasey (D-TX) expressed concern regarding the impact that the Trump administration’s immigration (e.g., mass deportation) and trade policies may have on the energy sector, especially energy prices. However, he took pride in recently establishing the bipartisan Energy Dominance Caucus.

Representative Rob Menendez (D-NJ) spoke out against the Trump administration’s recent funding freeze on IRA and IJA funding disbursements. He specifically stated that the funding freeze would lead to an increase in energy prices and noted that there are reports of companies that have been negatively impacted already. He added that said companies have had to lay off employees because of the funding disbursement pause. **Representative Menendez** asked **Mr. O’Connor** whether energy developers may be more or less likely to invest in the United States if that they cannot trust a contract with the federal government. **Mr. O’Connor** responded that it would make companies less likely to invest in projects within the United States.

Representative Rob Menendez (D-NJ) said that the Trump administration has completely disregarded environmental justice in his energy dominance plans. He also noted that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities recently announced that it will not be awarding a bid on new offshore wind development, “citing uncertainty in federal actions as part of their reasoning.”

Oil & Natural Gas Production

Subcommittee Vice Chair Weber stated that his district is no stranger to LNG and noted the benefits from the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars “poured back into the community.” He stated that the LNG export facility approval ban implemented by the Biden administration had severe consequences for his district, and commended President Trump for lifting the ban. He asked **Ms. Eversole** to discuss the important role that LNG will play in the future. **Ms. Eversole** responded that U.S. LNG exports promote geopolitical strength and noted that “\$14.4 billion came back to the United States because of exports.”

Subcommittee Vice Chair Weber said that “coal and natural gas make up the backbone of our energy generation mix.” He expressed frustration with the Biden administration’s actions against those two sources by “weaponizing agencies to literally take them off the grid.” He asked **Mr. McCown** to discuss the importance of coal and natural gas. **Mr. McCown** responded that natural gas represents baseload power and efficiency, and noted that renewables are still an intermittent source that have contributed to an increase in energy prices, especially wholesale prices.

Representative Scott Peters (D-CA) stated that, last year, the United States produced more oil and gas than any other country in history and exported record amounts of LNG under the Biden administration. He implored his colleagues to “get serious about the energy grid and reliability issues facing this country, because America is energy dominant, but we’re going to need to do more.”

Representative Troy Balderson (R-OH) asked *Ms. Eversole* to describe actions taken by API companies to be responsible stewards of the environment, while also providing reliable, baseload power to Americans across the country. *Ms. Eversole* responded that API released a climate action framework, which specifically provides detailed ways to reduce emissions. *Ms. Eversole* noted that in 2017, API launched an environmental partnership that focuses on assessing strategies to reduce methane emissions. She added that the oil and gas industry is the largest investor in clean technologies, like geothermal and carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

Representative August Pfluger (R-TX) shared that he introduced [H.R.26](#), the *Protecting American Energy Production Act*, which aims to protect hydraulic fracturing, calling it “a critical innovation and technology.” He strongly criticized the EPA’s Waste Emissions Charge, implemented by the Biden administration, and asked *Ms. Eversole* to share her thoughts on the policy. *Ms. Eversole* agreed with *Representative Pfluger* and called the policy “a methane tax.” She noted, however, that API is committed to helping reduce methane emissions.

Representative August Pfluger (R-TX) mentioned the LNG export facility approval ban issued by the Biden administration and noted that it negatively impacted investments in LNG projects across the United States.

Representative Diana Harshbarger (R-TN) asked *Ms. Eversole* to discuss the importance of oil production in the United States. *Ms. Eversole* responded that U.S. oil bolsters geopolitical strength and substantially reduces reliance on oil from foreign adversaries, like Iran.

Representative Diana Harshbarger (R-TN) raised the work done by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and noted that DOGE may be reviewing the work done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She stated that NOAA abused its authority under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as it relates to the protection of the Rice’s whale, slowing down the development of oil production in the Gulf of America (formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico). She asked *Ms. Eversole* if API has any recommendations regarding the implementation of the ESA on protections for the Rice’s whale. *Ms. Eversole* responded that a Biological Opinion on the Rice’s whale “needs to be completed to ensure that there are no interruptions to production in the Gulf of America.” *Ms. Eversole* added that the barrels of oil produced in the Gulf of America are among the cleanest in the world.

Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) expressed support for the swift reauthorization of the provisions included in the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017*. She also noted the importance of the Section 45Q tax credit.

Representative Jennifer McClellan (D-VA) defended the Biden administration’s decision to pause the approval of new LNG export facilities because it was pursuant to the *Natural Gas Act*’s public interest standard. She noted that increasing LNG exports could increase domestic natural gas prices.

Representative Marc Veasey (D-TX) asked *Mr. Arnold* to share his thoughts on the potential impacts of repealing the Section 45Q tax credit on future energy projects. **Mr. Arnold** stated that he is “fully supportive” the 45Q tax credit and the jobs it can help create.

Representative Gabriel Evans (R-CO) stated even though the Democrats continue to say that the United States has recently produced record amounts of energy, there is clearly an increasing demand for more energy that needs to be met. He asked *Ms. Eversole* to share what can be done to substantially increase energy production, especially as it relates to oil and gas. **Ms. Eversole** responded that a notable need is the availability of public land leasing opportunities, since the Biden administration substantially limited federal land leasing for fossil fuels projects. She added that energy production in federal lands can take place responsibly and with respect to the environment.

Representative Nick Langworthy (R-NY) strongly criticized state level policy in New York to significantly limit natural gas production and prohibit large scale hydraulic fracturing. He noted that his district sits atop the Marcellus Shale, which is estimated to contain 214 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas.

Nuclear Power & Renewable Energy Sources

Subcommittee Chairman Latta asked *Mr. McCown* to discuss the role that small modular reactors (SMRs) will play in U.S. energy production. **Mr. McCown** commended Congress for the passage of the *ADVANCE Act* and stated that SMRs will play role in replicating “a particular power plant that has already been licensed, again, and again, and again.” He noted that each nuclear reactor is different, and it takes a long time to permit them, so SMRs will help further deploy nuclear power.

Full Committee Chairman Guthrie asked *Mr. McCown* to expand on the national security risks fostered by policies in European countries to actively replace fossil fuels with wind and solar. **Mr. McCown** specifically noted the impacts of recent policies in Germany to excessively rely on renewables and phasing down nuclear power, which has led to an overall increase in greenhouse gas emissions. **Mr. McCown** stated that the decrease in the use of “cheap, Russian fossil fuels” in European countries “has been devastating.” Lastly, **Mr. McCown** acknowledged that renewables should play a role in energy deployment, but the primary factors to keep in consideration are “reliable, efficient, and affordable” energy.

Full Committee Chairman Guthrie asked *Ms. Eversole* to expand on the “lessons learned” from Europe’s attempt to “quickly transition to renewables” and the “negative impact in terms of economic growth.” **Ms. Eversole** noted that 85% of the gas that came from Russia was replaced by gas from the United States, which she referred to as “good for American workers, good for America’s national security, and also good for Europe.” **Ms. Eversole** added that API supports an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy, but opposes “picking winners and losers.”

Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone criticized President Trump’s prior statements in support of an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy and then deciding not to prioritize certain sources of energy, like wind, solar, and battery storage, once he took office. **Mr. O’Connor** concurred and noted that renewables will play a role in addressing load growth because roughly 95% of interconnection queue are solar, wind, and battery storage; mainly because “those sources take about two years to bring online, as opposed to natural gas power plants, which could take up to five years, and nuclear power projects, which could take 10 or more.”

Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL) expressed support for all energy sources, but noted that a clean source like nuclear power is far more reliable than renewable sources. He asked **Mr. McCown** to discuss what can be done to advance the deployment of SMRs. **Mr. McCown** responded that both public policy and public education will be key factors in helping deploy nuclear energy. **Representative Palmer** said that advancements in reactors include the ability to recycle spent fuel rods, which retain a substantial amount of energy.

Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) celebrated last year’s passage of the *ADVANCE Act*. She asked **Mr. O’Connor** if the United States is the number one producer of crude oil in the world. **Mr. O’Connor** responded in the affirmative.

Representative Rick Allen (R-GA) stated that global energy demand is growing rapidly, and the U.S. needs to meet that demand to compete against foreign adversaries. He stated that nuclear energy is key to achieving energy dominance and celebrated the enactment of the *ADVANCE Act*, which included provisions from the *Nuclear Leasing Efficiency Act*, which he sponsored.

Representative Laurel Lee (R-FL) noted that **Mr. McCown’s** testimony says that “[a]ttempts to demand an energy transition cannot be willed by policymakers. Physics beats policy every day.” She asked **Mr. McCown** to explain that statement. **Mr. McCown** responded that there are promising technologies, like geothermal, hydrogen, and fusion reactors; but some of these technologies are “not ready yet” and “we can’t mandate the deployment of certain technologies by picking winners and losers.” He highlighted the importance of investments in research and development, and being patient, as we need to move into a clean energy future without losing affordability and reliability.

Permitting Reform, Grid Infrastructure, and Pipelines

Representative Scott Peters (D-CA) highlighted that the United States is in dire need to prepare for load growth, extreme weather, and other threats, as they may negatively impact the grid. He specifically noted that the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a study that concluded that an additional 35 gigawatts of transmission transfer capability between regions would be needed to “undoubtedly strengthen our ability to meet demand, maintain reliability, and improve our resilience to extreme weather conditions.” **Representative Peters** also shared that since 2014, North America has built seven gigawatts of interregional transmission power, compared to 44 in Europe and 260 in China.

Representative Scott Peters (D-CA) asked **Mr. O’Connor** to expand on the laws that Congress can change to make it easier to build and coordinate the construction of large, interregional power lines. **Mr. O’Connor** noted that clarifying federal siting authority would make it easier to permit interregional projects and expressed support for funding DOE’s Transmission Facilitation Program

and directing FERC to establish minimum transmission transfer capabilities pursuant to the NERC study cited by *Representative Peters*.

Representative Troy Balderson (R-OH) raised the importance of making sure the United States counts on a robust and reliable pipeline infrastructure. ***Mr. McCown*** and ***Ms. Eversole*** agreed. ***Ms. Eversole*** noted that permitting reform will be crucial in coming years, specifically as it relates to litigation and judicial proceedings.

Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) expressed support for expanding and strengthening the U.S. grid infrastructure to meet the growing demand for electricity, as well as promoting energy efficiency, instead of merely increasing energy supply. He asked ***Mr. McCown*** and ***Mr. O'Connor*** to discuss the role that efficiency can play in addressing energy needs. ***Mr. McCown*** responded that efficiency has been successful and needs to be further improved, but noted that “we can’t conserve our way to prosperity,” as the United States continues to use more energy. ***Mr. O'Connor*** agreed with ***Mr. McCown***’s statement.

Representative Diana Harshbarger (R-TN) asked ***Ms. Eversole*** to expand on her views regarding permitting reform and the need to build more pipelines. ***Ms. Eversole*** reiterated her support for permitting reform and noted that pipelines will be needed for oil and gas, as well as CO₂.

Representative Cliff Bentz (R-OR) asked ***Ms. Eversole*** to provide details about what can be done to improve permitting. ***Ms. Eversole*** responded that: (1) “the further weaponization of NEPA (*National Environmental Policy Act*) and the *Clean Water Act*” needs to be avoided because those laws are being used to stop energy projects; and (2) judicial reform needs to be enacted.

Representative Dave Joyce (R-PA) stressed the need for infrastructure to transport energy sources across the United States. He expressed strong support for both “drill, baby, drill” and “build, baby, build.” He noted that his home state is a large natural gas producer that lacks the appropriate infrastructure to deploy the resource, whether it is through pipelines or LNG exports facilities.

Energy Demand & Artificial Intelligence

Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL) expressed concern about the AI competitiveness against countries like China. He stated that the United States needs to ensure that there is a reliable supply of energy for AI and data centers and “we’re not going to do it with renewables.”

Representative Gabriel Evans (R-CO) raised the issue of mandatory electrification and noted that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission recently approved the Black Hills Clean Heat Plan, which implements the “first-in-the-nation electrification mandate.” He stated that 80% of Coloradans support policies that preserve voluntary access to their choice of energy, including natural gas. He added that electrification mandates in the state could mean that the average electricity bill could increase to up to \$800 per month. ***Representative Evans*** asked ***Mr. Arnold*** if members of the Denver Pipefitters Local 208 would be able to afford such an increase. ***Mr. Arnold*** responded in the negative and noted that it would have a severe impact on workers across the state.

Representative Julie Fedorchak (R-ND) stated that grid operators have warned that two-thirds of the country is at an elevated risk of not meeting power demands today. She noted that the

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) transmission region is expected to see a net 50-gigawatt increase in installed capacity by 2042, but a net 30-gigawatt decrease in accredited capacity.