LOTSIXTEEN

Committee: House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy

Event: Markup of 13 Bills June 5, 2025

Date:

10:00 AM Time:

Place: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Legislation Considered:

- H.R. 3616 Reliable Power Act
- <u>H.R. 1047</u> Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power (GRID Power) Act
- H.R. 3632 Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025
- H.R. 3638 Electric Supply Chain Act
- H.R. 3157 State Energy Accountability Act
- H.R. 3628 State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act
- H.R. 3657 Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act
- H.R. 3015 National Coal Council Reestablishment Act
- H.R. 3617 Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act
- H.R. 3109 Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining (REFINER) Act
- H.R. 3062 Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act
- H.R. 1949 Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025
- H.R. 3668 Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act

Member Toplines:

Subcommittee Chair Bob Latta (R-OH-05): Latta emphasized the need to increase domestic energy production to meet projected demand growth, especially with the forecasted addition of data centers and other large loads to the grid. He gave an overview of each piece of legislation being considered by the subcommittee, and he emphasized his intent to work on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation to increase domestic energy production.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL-14): Castor highlighted the importance of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the rollout of new energy technologies and domestic manufacturing jobs. She criticized the Trump administration's recent actions to cut funding and programs in both the IRA and IIJA, and she contended that multiple independent studies have concluded that consumer energy prices will rise under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1). She argued that the legislation being considered by the subcommittee will contribute to rising energy costs for consumers and push advanced manufacturing companies abroad.

Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie argued that the following legislation will protect American jobs and fuel the race to artificial intelligence (AI) dominance against China. He argued that the stability of the electric system is at risk, and he contended that AI requires heightened reliable

energy production. He expressed support for each bill being considered by the subcommittee and he expressed support for efforts to streamline the permitting of nonrenewable energy resources.

Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06): Pallone highlighted the projected increase in consumer energy costs as a result of H.R. 1, and he criticized Republican efforts to stall the deployment of renewable energy. He argued that Republicans only care about fossil fuels, and he criticized recent staffing reductions for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a result of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). He contended that the legislation before the subcommittee, most of which were included in H.R. 1, is only being considered because they will not survive the Senate Byrd bath. He also argued that Al leaders are supportive of clean, low-cost, diversified sources of energy.

Other Opening Statements:

- Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA-50) argued that the U.S. is not prepared to meet the anticipated increase in energy demand as a result of data centers, manufacturing, and population growth. He argued that Congress should prioritize bipartisan efforts to deploy new energy infrastructure, expand, and modernize the grid, rather than continue to push messaging bills. He promoted his SPEED and Reliability Act of 2024 (<u>H.R.</u> <u>7786</u>), and he emphasized the need for Congress to enact bipartisan permitting reform.
- Reps. **Paul Tonko** (D-NY-20) and **Lizzie Fletcher** (D-TX-07) argued multiple hearing witnesses over the past year have emphasized the need to preserve the IRA tax credits, increase investment certainty, and work in a bipartisan manner on permitting reform. Fletcher also highlighted Texas' recent state-level, bipartisan efforts to expedite permitting timelines and encourage continued investments in all energy projects.

Items To Be Considered:

- H.R. 3616, Reliable Power Act Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH-12)
 - Balderson introduced an ANS to H.R. 3616 based on technical feedback he received from FERC and NERC.
 - The ANS was agreed to in a voice vote.
 - Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01) introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3616_20) to the ANS, arguing that H.R. 3616 asks FERC to "achieve the impossible" in light of recent layoffs. She noted that FERC's Acting General Counsel stated in a recent hearing that FERC does not have the computing power to implement H.R. 3616, and her amendment would ensure the legislation does not take effect until FERC certifies that they can effectively implement the bill's mandate.
 - Balderson opposed this amendment, arguing that FERC will not need to procure new high intensity computing or modeling technologies to implement the legislation.
 - Castor expressed support for this amendment, citing recent FERC testimony stating they do not have the capacity to take on consistent oversight of other agency's decisions.

- A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (14-16).
- Final vote: H.R. 3616 was agreed to in a 16-14 vote.
- <u>H.R. 1047</u>, GRID Power Act Balderson
 - Balderson argued that this legislation will ensure that new power resources can be added to supplement retired power generation in an efficient manner. He characterized the interconnection process as "broken," and he emphasized the need for essential energy projects to meet growing demand.
 - Castor introduced an amendment (AMD_HR1047_2), arguing that the legislation will prioritize nonrenewable energy generation and massively delay renewable energy generation in the interconnection queue.
 - Balderson opposed this amendment, arguing that the underlying bill does not limit FERC's authorities under the *Federal Power Act*.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (14-15).
 - Final vote: H.R. 1047 was agreed to in a 16-14 vote.
- H.R. 3632, Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025 Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09)
 - Latta expressed support for H.R. 3632 to ensure that premature retirements of power plants do not unduly harm the overall reliability of the grid.
 - Peters introduced an amendment (AMD_PPRACT_36) that ensures that the legislation will not take effect until the Secretary of Energy confirms that the refusal to permit the decommissioning of power plants will not unduly increase energy costs for everyday consumers.
 - Latta opposed this amendment, arguing it is unnecessary.
 - Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-04) emphasized the need for solar energy and other renewable sources of energy; Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND-AL) argued that in order to maintain affordability, it is better to keep our current sources of energy before adding new generation sources and grid technologies.
 - Rep. Rob Menendez (D-NJ-08) argued that this amendment will specifically ensure energy affordability is prioritized, and contended that a vote against it is an action opposing transparency, low consumer costs, and state's rights to decommission uneconomic energy projects.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (14-15).
 - Final vote: H.R. 3632 was agreed to in a 15-14 vote.
- <u>H.R. 3638</u>, Electric Supply Chain Act Latta
 - Latta emphasized the need for the government to embrace a proactive posture when analyzing electric supply chains, especially with the projected mass retirement of baseload power and increasing demand for electric power.
 - Tonko expressed concern for the current workforce challenges facing DOE, and noted the parallels between this legislation and the SUPPORT Act (<u>H.R. 2483</u>).
 - McClellan introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3638_01) that would prevent H.R. 3638 from taking effect until the Secretary of Energy confirms that DOE has adequate staff to implement the bill and that there are no future plans for mass layoffs at DOE.

- Latta opposed this amendment.
- Schrier expressed support for the idea behind the legislation however, she and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14) criticized the Republican caucus for not questioning recent mass layoffs at the Office of Manufacturing & Energy Supply Chains, who is tasked with implementing this legislation.
- A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (14-15).
- Final vote: H.R. 3638 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- <u>H.R. 3157</u>, State Energy Accountability Act Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY-23)
 - Langworthy noted that this legislation would add a standard to push regulators to determine whether new additions to the grid can ensure energy reliability, transparency, and accountability. He noted this is not intended to stop the addition of renewable energy sources to the grid, but stated that it would force states to acknowledge the future impacts of adding "intermittent" power to the grid.
 - Final vote: H.R. 3157 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- <u>H.R. 3628</u>, State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act Rep. Gabe Evans (R-CO-08)
 - DeGette argued that Colorado has already implemented plans to ensure a mix of renewable energy and nonrenewable energy sources. She contended that Evans is mischaracterizing renewable energy as inadequate. Evans defended his bill, arguing that the bill prioritizes reliability rather than a specific type of energy.
 - Ocasio-Cortez introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3628_01), emphasizing the importance of battery and energy storage technologies for grid resilience. This amendment would require states to consider the need to invest in energy storage technologies.
 - Peters emphasized that both nonrenewable and renewable energy technologies can be used to meet energy demand and increase the reliability of the grid, and that this legislation prioritizes fossil fuels over all other forms of energy, regardless of their efficacy.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (13-15).
 - Final vote: H.R. 3628 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- H.R. 3657, Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA-08)
 - Schrier, Latta, and Matsui spoke in support of H.R. 3657.
 - Final vote: H.R. 3657 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- H.R. 3015, National Coal Council Reestablishment Act Rep. Michael Rulli (R-OH-06)
 - Rulli argued that the National Coal Council is critical for delivering President Donald Trump's energy dominance agenda. Pallone argued that this legislation is meaningless, as DOE Secretary Chris Wright already reestablished the National Coal Council earlier this year. He contended that Republicans are focused on messaging. Castor agreed with Pallone, arguing that coal production must taper off to prevent the continued acceleration of the climate crisis.
 - Final vote: H.R. 3015 was agreed to in a 15-13 vote.

- <u>H.R. 3617</u>, Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act Rep. John James (R-MI-10)
 - James argued that this legislation would ensure the U.S. can reduce our mineral supply chain reliance on foreign producers.
 - Castor opposed the legislation, arguing that this legislation does not consider the bipartisan work done in the mineral policy realm over the past couple of years. She emphasized the need for Congress to expand our domestic processing capacity, and highlighted how the IRA and IIJA were supporting these mineral manufacturing and battery supply chains.
 - Final vote: H.R. 3617 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- H.R. 3109, REFINER Act Latta
 - Final vote: H.R. 3109 was agreed to in a voice vote.
- <u>H.R. 3062</u>, Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act Fedorchak
 - Fedorchak introduced an ANS to H.R. 3062. She emphasized the importance of permitting certainty for pipelines in rural areas, and argued that energy permits should not be treated as partisan plays.
 - Menendez argued that many of Trump's recent actions are political in nature, and called Republicans hypocritical.
 - The ANS was agreed to in a voice vote.
 - Rep. **Marc Veasy** (D-TX-33) introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3062_35) to ensure that this legislation does not inhibit existing environmental reviews.
 - Fedorchak argued this amendment is duplicative.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (12-16).
 - Final vote: H.R. 3062 was agreed to in a 16-13 vote.
 - H.R. 1949, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025 Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX-11)
 - Pallone introduced an amendment (AMD_HR1949_31) that prevents the bill from being implemented until the DOE Office of the Inspector General confirms that there is no corruption associated with the "pay-to-play" \$10,000,000 fee for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications included in H.R. 1.
 - Veasey questioned why the legislation lacks safeguards to prevent LNG from being sold to foreign entities of concern (FEOCs).
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (12-16).
 - Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA-15) introduced an amendment (AMD_HR1949_12) to restore the public interest determination for FEOCs, especially for foreign competitors challenging American AI development. He also contended that exporting LNG resources would increase energy prices for American consumers.
 - Pfluger argued this amendment is duplicative.
 - Castor contended that Republicans are refusing to acknowledge the historic sale of American LNG to China, noting this legislation would allow China to use American resources to beat us in terms of AI and data center development. Pfluger disputed this idea.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (12-16).

- Castor introduced an amendment (AMD_HR1949_10) to prevent the bill from taking effect until DOE confirms that gas prices will not increase for domestic consumers as a result of LNG exports.
 - Pfluger contended that multiple independent service operators (ISOs) have testified in front of the Committee and confirmed that LNG exports will not increase prices for American families.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (11-16).
- Final vote: H.R. 1949 was agreed to in a 15-13 vote.
- <u>H.R. 3668</u>, Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-09)
 - Weber argued that this legislation will allow stakeholders to engage early in the interstate permitting process to identify any potential challenges a pipeline project may face. He argued this will increase project predictability and transparency while expediting the deployment of needed infrastructure.
 - Similar to Pallone's AMD_HR1949_31, McClellan introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3668_29) to prevent the bill from being implemented until the DOE Office of the Inspector General confirms that there is no corruption associated with the "pay-to-play" \$10,000,000 fee to export pipeline applications included in H.R. 1.
 - Weber expressed opposition to this amendment, arguing it is not relevant to the legislation. He contended that the U.S. cannot afford long delays for energy development, especially given increasing demand for AI and data centers, and he claimed that the \$10,000,000 is not relevant as it is not current law. Rep. **Rick Allen** (R-GA-12) emphasized the need for pipeline deployment nationwide, urging a no vote on this amendment.
 - McClellan and Castor argued that the \$10,000,000 fee will be implemented once the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is agreed to.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (11-15).
 - Menendez introduced an amendment (AMD_HR3668_25) to protect state's rights to enforce clean water laws for proposed natural gas pipelines, which would be stripped in H.R. 3668.
 - Weber opposed this amendment, saying this would allow "bad state actors" to block the construction of "clean, affordable" natural gas via pipeline development.
 - Matsui and McClellan spoke in support of the amendment, arguing that the government must preserve states' rights to consider the environmental impacts of ongoing energy projects.
 - A roll call vote was requested for this amendment. The amendment failed on party lines (11-15).
 - Final vote: H.R. 3668 was agreed to in a 15-11 vote.