



Committee: House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy

Event: [Energy Subcommittee Markup](#)

Date: November 19, 2025

Executive Summary:

The following energy bills passed on party lines, with the exception of Rep. **Paul Tonko's** (D-NY-20) weatherization bill, [H.R. 1355](#).

Democrats frequently offered amendments that then failed on party lines. Democrats also took issue with Republican claims that rolling back regulations would lower costs, instead highlighting the financial value of energy efficiency and updated building codes.

Member Toplines:

*Chair Bob Latta (R-OH-05)*¹: Latta underscored that the bills at hand would restore consumer choice, remove “burdensome regulatory structures” when purchasing equipment, and reduce costs. He highlighted the Don’t Mess with My Home Appliances Act ([H.R. 4626](#)), which would reform the *Energy Policy & Conservation Act* (EPCA). He stressed the need for consumers to have durable and affordable appliances that still achieve energy efficiency.

Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL-14): Castor asserted that Republican policies have led to increased costs, highlighting that household electricity prices have increased 11 percent this year. She defended EPCA, noting that appliance standards save households over \$500 in energy bills annually and that homeowners save \$15,000 when they build to updated codes. She advocated that Congress address President **Donald Trump's** tariffs on products like steel and aluminum, which “underpin the energy system” and expressed concern that the White House is bailing out the coal industry. She noted that the Department of Energy (DOE) cancelled a loan for the Grain Belt Express, a large-scale transmission line across the Midwest that would have lowered power costs.

Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie reported that the Biden administration’s DOE issued nearly 30 energy efficiency regulations for appliances and equipment, costing over \$60 billion to the economy. He raised concern at shortened appliance lifecycles and also underscored the need for states and localities to have “flexibility” in code implementation.

Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06): Pallone expressed concern that these bills will worsen the “Republican affordability crisis” and will undermine the artificial intelligence race with China by increasing energy consumption and grid strain.

Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA-07): Matsui reported that according to a consumer record survey, 82 percent of Republican respondents agreed that home appliances should be required to achieve

¹ None of the opening statements were available online at the time of memo composition.

a minimum level of efficiency. She attested to the money that energy efficiency standards save and reported that 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills.

Legislation of Interest Considered:

- I. [H.R. 3474](#) - Federal Mechanical Insulation Act
 - A. The bill was agreed to with a voice vote.
- II. [H.R. 3699](#) - Energy Choice Act
 - A. Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY-23) defended the importance of energy choice, expressing issues with local officials attempting to ban natural gas and propane.
 - B. Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-NY-14) raised concern that the actual text prevents state and local governments from enforcing safety codes and even inhibits state utility commissions from conducting utility rate oversight. She asked if the text would interfere with state law setting safety standards or mandating equipment, such as for a natural gas distribution line.
 - C. Reps. **Jake Auchincloss** (D-MA-04), **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08), and Ranking Member Castor defended states' rights, taking issue with Republican Party federal overreach. Auchincloss called for a refocus on energy issues, including permitting reform.
 - D. Rep. **Gabe Evans** (R-CO-08) expressed his support for the bill, reporting that according to a 2024 poll, 78 percent of Coloradans support voluntary options over mandatory electrification policies.
 - E. Langworthy introduced an amendment to strike the definition of energy from Section 2b to therefore not restrict future fuels and technologies.
 1. The amendment was agreed to with a voice vote.
 - F. The bill is agreed to with a voice vote.
- III. [H.R. 5184](#) - Affordable HOMES Act
 - A. Latta explained that the bill would remove DOE authority to issue energy efficiency standards for manufactured housing while maintaining the Department of Housing & Urban Development's full regulatory authority.
 - B. Auchincloss proposed an amendment to retain DOE's input on energy efficiency standards in an advisory capacity. Both Ranking Member Pallone and Rep. **Scott Peters** (D-CA-50) defended the amendment, citing the value of DOE's energy efficiency standard for manufactured housing and its role in housing affordability.
 1. The amendment was agreed to with a voice vote.
 - C. The bill is agreed to with a voice vote.
- IV. [H.R. 4690](#) - Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act
 - A. Langworthy explained that the bill would adjust Section 433 of the *Energy Independence and Security Act*, which currently phases out fossil fuel use in federal buildings, to an energy neutral provision that prioritizes efficiency performance.
 - B. The bill was agreed to, 16 to 14.
- V. [H.R. 4593](#) - SHOWER Act
 - A. Rep. **Russell Fry** (R-SC-07) explained that the bill codifies the industry standard definition of a shower head.

- B. Castor notably expressed concern that the changes in the bill would benefit foreign manufacturers at cost to domestic manufacturers. She also raised concerns with DOE layoffs. Democrat Reps. **Diana DeGette** (D-CO-01), **Kim Schrier** (D-WA-08), and **Marc Veasey** (D-TX-33) also pushed back on the bill.
- C. The bill was agreed to, 17 to 14.
- VI. [H.R. 4758](#) – Homeowner Energy Freedom Act
 - A. This bill would repeal the following *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA) programs: the high-efficiency electric home rebate program, the state-based home energy efficiency contractor training grants, and assistance for zero building energy code adoption.
 - B. DeGette expressed resistance, pointing out that the IRA, which has saved American households thousands of dollars, has already been reduced. DeGette highlighted that updated building codes ultimately save households money.
 - C. Both DeGette and Castor proposed amendments, which failed.
 - D. The bill was agreed to, 16 to 14.
- VII. [H.R. 4626](#) – Don’t Mess With My Home Appliances Act
 - A. Rep. **Rick Allen** (R-GA-12) asserted that DOE has gone beyond its scope of statutory authority through “arbitrary and capricious standards,” leading to increased appliance costs with shorter life cycles. He explained that the bill will eliminate the six year look back period, establish a new process for standards to be revoked or revised, and amend the criteria for determining whether an energy conservation standard is economically justified. He proposed an amendment, which would align all compliance dates to be five years following a final rule on test procedures for water efficiency standards, among other changes.
 - B. Castor proposed Amendment Seven, which would ask that the DOE conduct a report on the effects of revoking efficiency standards on cost, monetary benefits, and climate pollution.
 - 1. She stated that the bill eliminates the primary accountability tool that ensures DOE regulators update standards and underscored that businesses and households support energy efficiency standards.
 - 2. Allen expressed that the amendment is duplicative and unnecessary, among other comments on inflation.
 - 3. Menendez raised the stop work order on Revolution Wind, harming energy competition, and noted that the Trump Administration’s tariffs are also driving up prices.
 - 4. The amendment fails, 14 to 16.
 - C. Matsui proposed Amendment 11, which would prevent the bill from going into effect until the DOE can certify that this legislation would not add more stress to the electric grid.
 - 1. The amendment fails, 14 to 16.
 - D. Schrier proposed Amendment Three, which would give domestic manufacturers access to financial and technical assistance to help address the distribution transformer shortage if the administration is going to institute steel tariffs.
 - 1. Allen pushed back on the amendment, asserting that this would require DOE to establish a program to assist transformer and other grid-related

component manufacturers. He underscored the need for regulatory certainty, not taxpayer funded assistance.

2. The amendment fails, 14 to 15.

E. The bill passes, 17 to 14, with Allen's amendment.

VIII. H.R. 1355 – [Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2025](#)

A. The bill was agreed to with a voice vote.