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**Committee:** House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy  
**Event:** [Markup of Eight Bills on Electricity and Pipeline Safety](#)  
**Date:** June 24, 2026

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### ***Executive Summary:***

On Wednesday, June 24, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy convened a business meeting to markup eight bipartisan electricity and pipeline safety bills.

**The bills were ultimately adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

- Load Forecasting Enhancement Act ([H.R. 9332](#))
- Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act ([H.R. 9339](#))
- Advanced Transmission Technology to Reduce Rates Act ([H.R. 9335](#))
- Ratepayer Protection Act ([H.R. 9340](#))
- High-Capacity Grid Act ([H.R. 6633](#))
- Protecting Families from AI Data Center Energy Costs Act ([H.R. 6529](#))
- Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025 ([H.R. 2986](#))
- Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026 ([H.R. 9338](#))

### ***Member Toplines<sup>1</sup>:***

[Subcommittee Chair Bob Latta \(R-OH-05\)](#): Latta spoke in support of the bills before the subcommittee, arguing that they would help reduce energy costs and support the administration's energy dominance agenda. He highlighted current energy reliability concerns and affordability challenges.

*Subcommittee Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL-14)*: Castor highlighted the need to address rising energy bills and emphasized the importance of bipartisan solutions to lower costs for consumers. She strongly criticized the administration's decision to cancel energy projects and slow-walk approvals for renewable energy developments. Castor also voiced support for the recent actions taken by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to facilitate the interconnection of large loads to the grid without increasing costs for customers, while noting that these measures alone will not protect all consumers.

*Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02)*: Guthrie discussed the significant bipartisan efforts underway to address complex energy challenges. He commended FERC for avoiding sweeping, one-size-fits-all policies and advocated for giving regional transmission organizations the flexibility to develop solutions tailored to their specific needs.

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<sup>1</sup> The opening remarks of Full Committee Chair Guthrie and Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor were unavailable at the time of this memo's distribution.

[Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone \(D-NJ-06\)](#): Pallone discussed the need to address rising energy costs associated with the growing electricity demand from artificial intelligence (AI) data centers. While he supported the bills before the subcommittee, he argued that additional action is needed to manage the increasing energy demand driven by AI infrastructure. Pallone was highly critical of the environmental and community impacts of AI data centers, citing concerns about resource strain, rising energy costs, and local opposition. He advocated for a national moratorium on AI data center development until these concerns are addressed.

### ***Legislation Considered:***

#### **Load Forecasting Enhancement Act (H.R. 9332)**

- Reps. **Troy Balderson** (R-OH-12), **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08), and **Paul Tonko** (D-NY-20) spoke in support of the bill.
  - Balderson noted that rising electricity demand from AI data centers is contributing to higher energy costs for constituents. He and Menendez called on Congress to ensure sufficient generation capacity can come online to meet growing demand and that large-load customers, rather than local ratepayers, bear the costs of necessary grid upgrades.
  - Additionally, Balderson argued that the bill represents a strong first step toward improving states' ability to forecast future electricity demand and plan accordingly. He also contended that better load forecasting would help prevent the overbuilding of unnecessary energy infrastructure for speculative projects, ultimately protecting ratepayers from unnecessary costs.
  - Menendez argued that more accurate load forecasting would strengthen grid reliability and help prevent blackouts.
  - Tonko advocated for a larger role for the Department of Energy (DOE) in load forecasting, citing the department's analytical and modeling expertise. He urged the committee to include language explicitly authorizing DOE to provide technical assistance and support for load forecasting efforts.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

#### **Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act (H.R. 9339)**

- Reps. **Diana Harshbarger** (R-TN-01) and **Kevin Mullin** (D-CA-15) spoke in support of the bill.
  - In response to rising energy demand, Harshbarger argued that the bill would provide grid operators with additional tools to streamline the interconnection queue process and accelerate the deployment of new generation resources.
  - Mullin echoed Harshbarger's support for the legislation, arguing that it would help bring a broader range of generation resources online more quickly.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

#### **Advanced Transmission to Reduce Rates Act (H.R. 9335)**

- Rep. **Craig Goldman** (R-TX-12) spoke in support of the bill.

- He criticized lengthy bureaucratic processes for delaying grid upgrades, arguing that his bill would streamline approvals and create a more efficient system for deploying transmission infrastructure.
- While supportive of the bill's overall objectives, Castor expressed concerns about Section 2(c), which would exempt DOE funding programs for advanced transmission technologies from review under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA). Rather, she argued that changes to NEPA should be addressed as part of broader permitting reform negotiations rather than through targeted carveouts.
- Goldman offered an amendment to clarify that the bill's NEPA exclusion for DOE funding programs supporting advanced transmission technologies applies to cooperative agreements in addition to loans and grants. He argued that the amendment would strengthen the provision and help ensure innovative transmission technologies can be deployed more quickly nationwide.
  - The amendment was adopted by voice vote.
- **The amended bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

#### **Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340)**

- Reps. Castor, Tonko, **Gabe Evans** (R-CO-08), **Scott Peters** (D-CA-50), **Julie Fedorchak** (R-ND-AL), **Kim Schrier** (D-WA-08), **Doris Matsui** (D-CA-07), **Jennifer McClellan** (D-VA-04), and **August Pfluger** (R-TX-11) spoke in support of the bill.
  - Evans emphasized the need to protect ratepayers from rising energy costs associated with growing AI data center demand, arguing that large-load customers should bear the costs of grid and infrastructure upgrades. He noted that the bill would require rate-setting authorities to consider adopting a large-load standard for customers with peak demand exceeding 100 MW, while preserving flexibility by not imposing a federal mandate.
  - Castor highlighted concerns about rising energy prices amid broader affordability challenges. She described the current moment as an opportunity to modernize the nation's aging grid infrastructure, emphasized the importance of appropriately allocating costs to large-load customers, and advocated for innovative energy solutions to improve data center efficiency.
  - Pfluger, Peters, and Schrier echoed the importance of protecting ratepayers by ensuring large-load customers are responsible for the costs associated with their energy demand and any necessary infrastructure upgrades.
  - Peters pointed to China's investments in grid modernization and argued that the U.S. must similarly invest in transmission infrastructure. He also urged FERC to advance an interregional transmission planning rule to improve system planning and reduce costs.
  - Fedorchak stressed the importance of establishing an equitable cost-allocation framework.
  - Matsui and Tonko described the bill as a positive first step but argued that additional action is needed to modernize grid infrastructure and protect ratepayers. They also criticized administration policies that they said have hindered the development of renewable energy resources, including wind and solar.

- McClellan noted that local governments face significant pressure from data center developers because of the economic development opportunities these projects can bring. She urged Congress to ensure local officials have a seat at the table as policymakers consider measures to protect ratepayers and manage growing electricity demand.
- Tonko advocated lowering the bill's large-load threshold from 100 MW to 50 MW.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

### **High-Capacity Grid Act (H.R. 6633)**

- Fedorchak and Matsui both expressed support for the bill.
- Fedorchak emphasized the need to improve grid efficiency, arguing that the legislation would help modernize the electric system while protecting ratepayers from unnecessary costs.
- Matsui also spoke in support of the bill, highlighting the role advanced conductors can play in improving grid efficiency and lowering electricity costs for consumers.
- Fedorchak offered an amendment to the legislation.
- **The amended bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

### **Protecting Families from AI Data Center Energy Costs Act (H.R. 6529)**

- Castor offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS).
- In support of the amendment, Castor advocated for FERC to convene a technical conference focused on protecting ratepayers from increased costs associated with data center growth. She commended FERC's recent actions to establish a framework for connecting large-load customers to the grid, but noted that each FERC Commissioner emphasized the need for additional information on how to integrate large loads quickly and efficiently. Castor argued that a technical conference would provide an appropriate forum to gather this information and inform future policymaking.
- **The amended bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

### **Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025 (H.R. 2986)**

- Castor offered an ANS. In support of the amendment, she criticized lengthy interconnection queues and advocated for directing FERC to develop practical reforms to accelerate the interconnection process.
- Castor noted that the ANS would require FERC to immediately initiate a show-cause proceeding for each transmission provider, modeled on the show-cause orders the Commission issued last week regarding the interconnection of large-load customers.
- Latta expressed support for the amended bill, while acknowledging that additional revisions may be necessary in the future. Nevertheless, he urged his Republican colleagues to support the legislation at this stage of the legislative process.
- **The amended bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

### **Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026 (H.R. 9338)**

- Reps. **Randy Weber** (R-TX-14) and Guthrie expressed support for the bill.
- Weber argued that the legislation would provide the resources and direction necessary to continue safeguarding pipeline infrastructure nationwide.

- Pallone noted that a pipeline safety reauthorization is three years overdue and highlighted concerns Democrats raised regarding an earlier draft of the legislation.
- Rep. **Lizzie Fletcher** (D-TX-07) emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement in developing an effective pipeline safety bill. She criticized the administration's deregulatory agenda, arguing that it has weakened the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through abandoned rulemakings, the departure of senior personnel, and insufficient resources. Fletcher contended that additional steps are needed to ensure PHMSA has the capacity to carry out its mission effectively.
- Matsui opposed the bill, arguing that it would allow PHMSA to disregard environmental impacts when evaluating pipeline projects. She also sharply criticized what she described as the weakening of the agency under the current administration.
- Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-NY-14) offered an amendment to strike Section 6 of the bill, which establishes strengthened penalties for pipeline safety violations, citing concerns that the provision could be used to infringe upon First Amendment rights.
  - Weber and Guthrie opposed the amendment. However, Guthrie committed to working with Democrats to better define the term "impair" as used in Section 6.
  - Pallone and Rep. **Jake Auchincloss** (D-MA-04) supported the amendment, arguing that concerns about the Department of Justice's interpretation and enforcement of the provision underscored the need for clearer statutory definitions.
  - Ocasio-Cortez ultimately withdrew the amendment after receiving a commitment from committee leaders to work on refining the language in Section 6 on a bipartisan basis.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**