

Thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this markup today. It is so important that we continue the good work that has been done this year to advance comprehensive energy legislation. I know we have all been working across the aisle to get to this point, and I look forward to the debate and amendment consideration.

I'd like to begin by mentioning section 4122, which requires the Department of Energy to recognize voluntary third-party verification programs to demonstrate compliance with energy efficiency standards for air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump, and water heating products. The ENERGY STAR program would ensure manufacturer compliance with the program requirements under this language.

Currently, DOE also requires that manufacturers spend millions of additional dollars to certify and verify product standards directly to the agency. Essentially, the same tests are conducted two times, once at taxpayer expense, in the same facilities on the same equipment. This doesn't make sense for businesses or taxpayers. I'll be offering an amendment that includes some technical changes based on feedback

we've gotten in the past few weeks, but I'm pleased to see the committee addressing this issue.

I also look forward to offering an amendment on the Energy Star Program, that is language Peter Welch and I have been working on for several years now. We heard positive testimony during our efficiency hearing on this language and I hope to see it included in the final package. Our amendment addresses a recent threat that has emerged which could ultimately chill participation by consumers and manufacturers. Despite the continued success and oversight of the ENERGY STAR program, a gap in federal law allows private litigation, in addition to the EPA administered enforcement mechanism, against a manufacturer when a product falls out compliance with the program. Since the existing EPA oversight process has proven successful, our bill simply codifies it.

The third amendment that I plan to offer is a provision that Jerry McNerney and I have been working on, dealing with the WaterSense program. This language sets out in statute the WaterSense program at

EPA, which has been in operation since 2006 and empowers Congress to have oversight of the program. As a voluntary program, this allows for a label that enables consumers to have more information about products which save water for their homes, yards, and businesses.

Finally, I would like to offer my support for section 1104, which amends the Federal Power Act to better protect Critical Electric Infrastructure by enabling the federal government and private entities to respond to and mitigate grid security emergencies. This language also allows for the protection and sharing of critical electric infrastructure information voluntarily between private sector asset owners and the federal government. While we hope to avoid grid emergencies, it is important to prepare and have in place the procedures and ability to share information before an emergency situation occurs.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for holding this important markup. Our country needs an energy policy that reflects the abundant energy supply that we are so fortunate to have, and I look forward to working together as we advance this legislation.