

RE: Opening Statement for E&P Subcommittee Mark-up

DT: July 9, 2013 @ 4 pm

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that this country has the potential for a very bright and promising energy future. Recent technological advances have opened up access to once unavailable domestic sources of energy unleashing a number of positive economic benefits. In Ohio, this energy renaissance has been a life source to small towns and communities as they struggled to recover from dire economic conditions. Today, many of these towns have bustling main streets, new sources of revenue and employment rates well above the national average.

New access to cheap natural gas has also been fueling a flurry of activity in the manufacturing sector. I represent 60,000 manufacturing jobs in my district, which has benefited greatly from cheap natural gas. During my many visits, I always hear about concerns regarding unnecessary government interference and onerous new government regulations. It's very clear to my constituents that the best approach for Washington is to ensure a regulatory framework that encourages growth, not hamper it.

This is why I am especially supportive of Representative Cassidy's bill, the Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013. In the face of President Obama's proposals for new taxes, unjustified mandates and efforts to impose failed cap-and trade policies, this legislation provides a respite to the energy sector. It will require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) abide by certain checks and balances when the agency proposes a rule estimated to cost at least a billion dollars. More specifically, the EPA will be required to submit a cost analysis to Congress that will lay out a rule's impact on gasoline, electricity prices, and any potential job losses. It will further require the EPA consult with other agencies that stand to be impacted.

This sensible approach to regulation is an initiative we can all agree on. Former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said it best while testifying before this committee in 2011: "We must regulate sensibly – in a manner that does not create undue burdens and that carefully considers both the benefits and the costs." This is precisely what Rep. Cassidy's legislation proposes and I advocate support.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I yield back.