



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Chairman Fred Upton
114th Congress

The Architecture of Abundance: A Legislative Framework

America is experiencing an energy renaissance. Modern technology and American ingenuity have unlocked a wealth of energy resources, and with the right policies, this energy abundance can help fuel our economy for years to come. America's New Congress is working to maximize our nation's energy potential, strengthen energy security, and keep prices affordable with a plan called the [Architecture of Abundance](#). The Energy and Commerce Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Fred Upton and Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield, is preparing a series of discussion drafts for release in the coming months. The drafts will create a framework for a focused, solutions-based energy package, which the committee intends to move through the legislative process and bring to the House floor later this year. The committee will continue to work in a bipartisan manner and coordinate closely with its Senate counterparts and the administration to advance this effort toward a 21st century energy policy. The Energy and Commerce Committee will focus on four areas to advance the Architecture of Abundance.

I: Modernizing Infrastructure

America faces different energy challenges today than it did a decade ago. Chief among them is a shortage of modern energy infrastructure to carry abundant new supplies of oil and gas to consumers. These challenges threaten energy reliability and affordability. For example, delays and red tape in the permitting process prevent America from constructing the safest, most reliable, and oftentimes more environmentally sound routes of energy delivery.

Like America's oil and gas landscape, our electricity sector continues to evolve: its challenges include changing market dynamics and technological advances, aggressive environmental regulations, increased integration of intermittent resources, and growing grid security threats. At the same time, big data and new technologies offer novel products and services that can improve efficiency while helping utilities and software companies meet consumer needs. Policymakers and regulators at the federal, state, and local level need to ensure that through these new realities, families and businesses in every corner of the country have continued access to safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

This draft to modernize the transmission, reliability, and security of energy distribution will address the permitting challenges for current domestic and cross-border pipelines and transmission lines. It will also seek to protect critical energy infrastructure with improved emergency coordination and information sharing, ensure robust and transparent energy markets, and bring added levels of accountability to decision-makers.

II: 21st Century Energy Workforce

An educated, sustainable energy and manufacturing workforce is vital to continued economic

growth, particularly as we seek to modernize and update our energy infrastructure. In addition to having a workforce capable of addressing 21st century challenges, there is also bipartisan support to ensure that workforce opportunities are accessible to all Americans. The committee will seek to expand America's energy and manufacturing workforce to include more under-represented minority and low-income communities.

This draft will allow the Department of Energy, along with the national laboratories, community colleges, and public-private partnerships, to better coordinate and leverage existing resources to foster an energy and manufacturing workforce for the 21st century.

III: Energy Diplomacy for a Changing World

The committee has highlighted the significant geopolitical benefits of the North American energy revolution and examined how domestic energy policies – from resource development and incorporation of new technologies to a more highly integrated North American energy platform – enhance our energy security. These decisions are critical to making North America a global energy leader and our allies less dependent on OPEC countries and other unstable regions of the world.

This draft will seek to improve coordination and strengthen energy partnerships with our North American neighbors and to establish a process to evaluate how energy permitting decisions impact international energy security. From a decision to allow the export of energy commodities to a decision on infrastructure, policymakers should assess our national interest with an eye toward our allies and our ability to leverage our resources to advance our foreign policy goals. This is especially critical in a time of growing global tensions and shrinking foreign aid budgets.

IV: Efficiency and Accountability

The committee supports solutions that harness new technologies and private sector innovation for more efficient energy usage in households, businesses, and the federal government. The committee will build on its work from last Congress establishing voluntary programs, guidelines, and improved data sharing and benchmarking.

This draft continues our efforts to promote simple and affordable methods to address energy demand and bring down costs for consumers and taxpayers. It will also seek to reduce government waste and prioritize budget dollars in existing programs.

Building the Architecture of Abundance and More

Our energy landscape has changed, but our national energy policy has not kept pace. Outdated and inadequate energy policies are preventing us from taking full advantage of America's energy abundance. That is why Republicans are pursuing thoughtful, coherent policies that fulfill our energy potential, create jobs, bolster our energy security, and keep prices affordable for all Americans. We are pursuing the Architecture of Abundance.

These policies are at the core of a broader vision for pro-consumer energy policies. The committee will also address regulatory overreach of the Environmental Protection Agency, including its power plant rules under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act and recent ozone proposal. And the committee will continue to monitor EPA's methane efforts and its management of the Renewable Fuel Standard as well as the administration's overall Climate Action Plan and climate spending and activities.