

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Markup of H.J. Res. 71 and H.J. Res 72
November 3, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

In Michigan, and across the country, winter is fast approaching. And for many folks, the first line of defense against freezing temperatures is affordable and reliable electricity to heat our homes.

But affordable and reliable energy in our country is under assault. EPA's final rules seeking to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing power plants threaten to change fundamentally the way we generate, distribute, and consume electricity throughout the country. We are here today because the Obama administration is seeking to regulate where it failed to legislate.

The resolutions before us today represent an important part of this of this committee's longstanding and ongoing efforts to protect jobs and affordable energy from this administration's expansive regulatory agenda. This subcommittee has held a number of hearings examining EPA's final rules and just last month we examined the legal merits of these rules, which take the Clean Air Act in a direction it was never intended to go.

For existing power plants, these rules effectively would impose cap-and-trade requirements on states, and would increase electricity prices for consumers across the country. A Democratically controlled Congress wisely rejected cap-and-trade in 2010 and those rules are just as ill advised today as they were five years ago. These resolutions present Congress with an opportunity to disapprove of each rule and provide that each rule shall have no force and effect.

These resolutions are ultimately about protecting hard-working people from higher electricity prices, threats to grid reliability, and EPA's economy wide energy tax. I commend Mr. Whitfield for his steadfast work in standing up to this administration's unprecedented assault on American energy and I urge my colleagues to support the resolutions.

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