

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement
of
Subcommittee on Energy Ranking Member Bobby Rush
Subcommittee Markup of Cybersecurity and LNG Bills
April 18, 2018

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this critical markup today on legislation addressing cybersecurity and emergency response issues, as well as on HR 4606, which deals with small-scale LNG exports.

Mr. Chairman, I support the four cybersecurity bills before us as they would each help to address one of the most pressing issues we face: protecting our energy grid from those who might wish to do us harm.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, as you know in our hearing with FERC commissioners just yesterday, Chairman McIntyre cited cybersecurity issues as one of the biggest concerns confronting him and the agency.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend all the sponsors and cosponsors of the four cybersecurity bills being marked up today for their thoughtful attention to this critical issue.

I want to specifically acknowledge Mr. Walberg of Michigan for working with my office on the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, this bill would establish a new DOE Assistant Secretary position with jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.

With all of the focus on protecting our electric infrastructure, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to elevate the person responsible for this task up to the assistant secretary level at DOE.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I am not able to support HR 4606, the Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act.

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The bill would amend Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act to consider applications for exports of small-scale volumes of natural gas consisting of 0.14 billion cubic feet per day or less to be in the public interest.

At first glance, this legislation appears to be an attempt to codify DOE's small-scale LNG rule.

However, this bill does not include the requirement that applications must qualify for a categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Mr. Chairman, according to the Congressional Research Service, there is only one project that would meet the requirements underlined in HR 4606, the Eagle LNG Partners Jacksonville LLC.

This bill is a legislative earmark for a private company and I cannot support it.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this bill and with that I yield back the balance of my time.