



MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2022

**To:** Subcommittee on Energy Members and Staff  
**Fr:** Committee on Energy and Commerce Staff  
**Re:** Hearing on “Legislative Hearing to Strengthen Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency, and Financing”

On Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. (EDT), in the John D. Dingell Room, 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building, and via Cisco WebEx online video conferencing, the Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing entitled, “Legislative Hearing to Strengthen Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency, and Financing.” The hearing will focus on six bills that address necessary updates and upgrades in the energy sector.

**I. LEGISLATION**

**A. H.R. 1599, the “Securing America’s Critical Minerals Supply Act”**

H.R. 1599, the “Securing America’s Critical Minerals Supply Act,” introduced by Rep. Upton (R-MI), requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct assessments and secure energy resources that have vulnerable supply chains and are essential to the United States’ energy sector and systems. The bill amends the Department of Energy Organization Act to secure the supply of critical mineral resources, including critical minerals and other materials. It also establishes ongoing assessments of energy resource criticality, resource supply chains, and vulnerabilities. Additionally, the bill directs the Secretary of Energy to strengthen critical energy resource supply chains, develop alternatives to resources, and improve technology that reuses and recycles critical energy resources.

**B. H.R. 5292, the “Energy Accountability Act”**

H.R. 5292, the “Energy Accountability Act,” introduced by Rep. Young (R-AK), specifies that the Secretary of Energy may not make a loan guarantee for a project under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 if the borrower or any related or successor entity has previously defaulted on an obligation guaranteed through the program.

**C. H.R. 7947, the “Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2022”**

H.R. 7947, the “Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2022,” introduced by Reps. Tonko (D-NY), Rush (D-IL), and Kaptur (D-OH), amends the Energy Conservation and Production Act to make certain modifications to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

and to establish a weatherization readiness program. The bill increases the statutory limit for the average amount a state can spend on weatherizing homes from \$6,000 to \$12,000. It also clarifies the limitation around re-weatherization for dwelling units that have previously received federal funds other than through the WAP and repeals the statutory limit for renewable energy systems.

In addition, the bill directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a weatherization readiness program to provide grants to states and tribal organizations to implement measures that make dwelling units occupied by low-income residents ready to receive weatherization measures. This program is designed to address structural, roofing, and electrical issues; to reduce the deferral of weatherization measures; and to make dwelling units ready for weatherization measures and upgrades. The bill authorizes \$90 million annually for the weatherization readiness program for fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

**D. H.R. 7962, “To Amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to Modify the Definition of Water Heater Under Energy Conservation Standards, and for Other Purposes.”**

H.R. 7962, “To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes,” introduced by Rep. Dingell (D-MI) and 11 original cosponsors, harmonizes efficiency standards for commercial and residential water heaters and creates a new demand response program for residential water heaters. The bill clarifies several definitions under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, including for residential water heaters, multi-input electric storage water heaters, and residential solar thermal-assisted electric storage water heaters. It establishes new criteria for certain electric storage water heaters used in commercial buildings that would otherwise be regulated as residential water heaters. The bill also specifies that water heaters excluded from the definition of a residential water heater will be regulated by DOE as a commercial product.

In addition, H.R. 7962 directs DOE to issue a final rule by the end of 2024 that would require electric storage water heaters have demand response capabilities, if the Secretary of Energy finds the requirement is technologically feasible and economically justified. States would be preempted from issuing their own demand response standards upon the effective date of a final demand response rule issued by DOE.

**E. H.R. 8053, the “Guaranteeing Resilient Installations for Defense Act”**

H.R. 8053, the “Guaranteeing Resilient Installations for Defense Act” or the “GRID Act,” introduced by Reps. Crow (D-CO), Peters (D-CA), and Bacon (R-NE), amends section 215A of the Federal Power Act to give the Secretary of Energy the authority to enter into contracts or cooperative agreements to improve the resilience of defense critical electric infrastructure and to reduce the vulnerability of disruption of electric energy supply at these facilities. Additionally, the bill amends Section 215A so that its definition of “defense critical infrastructure” applies to such infrastructure in all states and territories of the United States, instead of just the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

**F. H.R. 8068, the “Tribal Energy Investment Act of 2022”**

H.R. 8068, the “Tribal Energy Investment Act of 2022,” introduced by Reps. Leger Fernandez (D-NM), O’Halloran (D-AZ), and Cole (R-OK), amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to submit a biennial report on the status of applications for, and projects receiving, guarantees under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The bill also amends the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to permit the Secretary of Energy to issue direct loans to tribes and tribal energy development organizations for the purpose of energy development. Finally, it makes appropriations already available for the cost of loan guarantees also available for the cost of providing direct loans.

**II. WITNESSES**

The following witnesses have been invited to testify:

**Andrew deLaski**  
Executive Director  
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

**Richard (“Rico”) Frias**  
Executive Director  
Native American Finance Officers Association

**Dustin Mulvaney, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Environmental Studies, San José State University

**Joshua C. Greene, Esq.**  
Corporate Vice President  
Government and Industry Affairs, A. O. Smith Corporation

**Lucian Pugliaresi**  
President  
Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc. (EPRINC)

**Ben Lieberman**  
Senior Fellow  
Competitive Enterprise Institute