

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Energy Chairman Bobby L. Rush

Hearing on “Securing America’s Future: Supply Chain Solutions for a Clean Energy Economy”

November 16, 2021

Good morning. I would first like to thank my friend, Chairman Paul Tonko of the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, for working so closely with me and my staff at the Energy Subcommittee to make today’s joint hearing possible.

As we have heard time and time again in my subcommittee, the clean energy transition represents both a challenge and an opportunity. It will undeniably be a difficult task — but one we can achieve — to get to net-zero emissions by 2050. But the clean energy transition also represents an enormous opportunity: it will enable us to move energy production from foreign countries like Saudi Arabia to right here at home, to ensure that our clean energy workforce better mirrors the tremendous diversity of America, and to make energy more affordable for all Americans.

Frankly, at present, we are behind in our efforts. According to the Department of Energy, the United States only produced 3 percent of the world’s solar panels last year and relied upon imports for roughly 40 percent of the average onshore wind project. Rather than despair, these facts should inspire us to action. Rather than swear off the clean energy supply chain altogether, we must commit to building it out.

The reality is that we have to compare our clean energy supply chain to the traditional fossil supply chain we have today. Despite years of hearing about energy independence from the Trump Administration, according to the Energy Information Administration, in August, we still relied on crude imports for nearly 40 percent of the oil that was processed in American refineries.

At a time when volatility in energy prices is causing so many consumers pain, we need to speed up the pace at which we make investments in the clean energy supply chain — any vote to keep our dependence on fossil fuels is a vote to keep American’s energy prices volatile and to expose Americans to unnecessary uncertainty.

Finally, as many of my colleagues know, I am passionate about ensuring that the next generation energy economy does not replicate the mistakes of the old one. A report from E2 released a few months ago clearly shows that fossil industries have disproportionately excluded Black and Brown workers, along with women of all colors. The clean energy industry has yet to do significantly better. It is simply disgraceful. America’s clean energy workforce **must** look like America, and any opportunity for us to invest in the clean energy supply chain must be partnered

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with efforts to improve the diversity of the sector. I know that with determination and commitment, we can achieve all of these goals.

With that said, I am looking forward to today's discussion about the clean energy supply chain, and with that, I yield back.