

Opening Statement of the Honorable Ed Whitfield
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Hearing on “H.R. 906, a Bill to Modify the Efficiency Standards for
Grid-Enabled Water Heaters”
March 19, 2015

(As Prepared for Delivery)

We are here today to discuss a bill that will bring regulatory relief to many electricity providers and manufacturers across the country. There are approximately 250 electric cooperatives in 34 states that utilize large electric resistance water heaters in demand response programs to help with reliability and consumer costs during peak periods of energy use.

In March, 2010, the Department of Energy issued new energy efficiency standards for large electric resistance water heaters that would in effect prohibit the manufacture of these water heaters that are 55 gallons or larger in favor of heat pump technology for water heaters of 55 gallons or larger.

Many heat pump water heaters are not compatible with certain utility thermal energy storage and demand response programs that allow utilities to reduce or shift their load during certain periods of energy use.

This legislation allows for the continued manufacture of large electric resistance water heaters above 75 gallons specifically for use in these energy saving programs.

H.R. 906 is a bipartisan piece of legislation that has been voted on twice by the House and once by the Senate. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the Committee- Representatives Welch, Latta, Loeb sack, Cramer, and Doyle who have worked to bring regulatory relief through this bill.

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