

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Organizational Meeting and Markup  
January 22, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Serving as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee is a unique privilege and a great responsibility. Sitting in this chair, you cannot help but think of the legacy left by chairmen before you and the awesome opportunities that lay ahead.

I'm proud of the work we did together over the last two years. It's true that we did not always agree, and this room was home to some spirited debates. This is as it should be. There are genuine differences of opinion, and each of us was elected to represent the views of our constituents and allow the democratic process to prevail.

But I do not believe we ever allowed our differences to overshadow that which binds us together: our commitment to doing what is right for this country, and our recognition of how this committee can help address many of the most pressing challenges and unlock some of the most exciting opportunities facing our great nation.

Our task for the 113th Congress is clear: We will pursue policies designed to get our economy back on track, our fiscal house in order, and our government in line with the needs and wishes of its citizens.

We will pursue policies that allow job creation and economic growth to flourish. We will take steps to transform Washington—to develop a smaller, modernized government for the innovation era. And we will work to protect families, communities, and the civic initiatives that allow American ingenuity to thrive.

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