

Testimony of Mr. Jeff Novak
U.S. Department of Energy
Before the
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy
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Introduction

Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, and members of the Committee, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) thanks you for the opportunity to testify before you today on these eight bills related to a variety of important energy topics.

DOE's work to strengthen American prosperity and security by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges spans the research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) continuum. This work includes developing energy efficiency standards that lower energy costs, enhance performance, and expand options for American consumers. DOE has been taking aggressive actions to eliminate regulations that drive up costs and lower quality of life for the American people. The Administration's deregulatory efforts advance President Trump's promise to restore consumer freedom in home appliances, promote energy affordability and reliability, and unleash American energy dominance.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills which cover important policy areas ranging from equipment and appliance standards to the efficiency of federal buildings.

H.R. 4626 – Don't Mess with My Home Appliances Act

This bill would prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified. The Secretary of Energy would be required to grant a petition to determine if energy conservation standards for a covered product should be amended or revoked if these standards result in additional costs to consumers, do not result in significant conservation of energy or water, are not technologically feasible, and/or results in the unavailability of the product to American consumers. The legislation would make important updates to the requirements for energy and water savings standards, requiring the Secretary to consider factors such as costs to low-income households and full-life cycle costs of the product, to ensure that a standard provides no additional costs for the consumer. In addition, the legislation prohibits the Secretary from issuing new or amended energy conservation standards for distribution transformers.

H.R. 4690 – Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act

This legislation would repeal certain Federal building requirements and energy efficiency performance standards. This includes the striking of a provision requiring a reduction and

eventual elimination of fossil fuel-generated energy consumption by newly constructed or renovated federal buildings.¹ To reduce onerous regulation and lower costs for the taxpayer, the Department has already delayed compliance with the associated rule implemented by the prior administration.² The Department recognizes the legislative priority to clarify the affordable and cost-efficient operations and maintenance of federal facilities.

H.R. 3699 – Energy Choice Act

H.R. 3699 would prohibit state and local governments from prohibiting or limiting the connection, reconnection, modification, installation, transportation, distribution, or expansion of an energy service based on the type of energy that would be delivered. This includes natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, liquified petroleum gas, renewable liquified petroleum gas, other liquid petroleum products, biomass-based diesel fuels and renewable fuels, and electricity. The Bill's definition of energy is not comprehensive and does not specifically reference important energy sources for the United States like coal, nuclear, and geothermal.

The Department is advancing a policy of energy addition by fully leveraging our Nation's energy resources to provide affordable, reliable, and secure energy for all Americans.

H.R. 4593 – Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing (SHOWER) Act

This bill codifies an industry definition for showerheads, except in regard to safety showerheads used for emergency purposes. The legislation also directs the Department to revise existing regulations within 180 days to reflect the updated statutory definition.

The Department has taken decisive action to implement President Trump's Executive Order 14264 "Maintaining Acceptable Water Pressure in Showerheads" by issuing the associated rule to repeal the existing definition of showerhead and end the Obama-Biden war on showers³.

H.R. 3474 – Federal Mechanical Insulation Act

H.R. 3474 aims to increase energy efficiencies in federal buildings by clarifying "mechanical insulation property" as materials, facings, and accessory products that reduce energy loss from a mechanical system. The legislation also expands the definition of "energy and water evaluations" to include identification of energy- and water-saving measures.

H. R. 5184 – Affordable HOMES Act

This bill would strike section 413 the Energy Independence Security Act of 2007, which established requirements for energy efficiency in manufactured housing.⁴ Additionally, the bill would remove the effect of the May 31, 2022, final rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing."

H.R. 1355 – Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act

¹ [42 USC 6834: Federal building energy efficiency standards](#)

² [Federal Register :: Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings; Stay](#)

³ 10 CFR Part 430

⁴ [STATUTE-121-Pg1492.pdf](#)

H.R. 1355 proposes to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and implement other related changes. WAP enhancements include eliminating September 30, 2025, sunset date for the Enhancement and Innovation program and increasing the maximum average cost per dwelling unit from \$6,500 to \$12,000. The legislation extends the authorization of appropriations for the Weatherization Assistance Program from 2025 to 2030.

Additionally, the bill mandates a new government program, authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000, that requires the Secretary of Energy to establish a new Weatherization Readiness Program within one year to provide grants to States and tribal organizations. The bill does not provide a savings-to-investment ratio nor average cost per dwelling unit and limits administrative expenses to 15 percent of any grant.

H.R.4758 - Homeowner Energy Freedom Act

H.R. 4758 would repeal three provisions from the Inflation Reduction Act that restrict consumer choice and waste taxpayer funds. These sections are Section 50122, which establishes a high-efficiency electric home rebate program, Section 50123, which provides for state-based home energy efficiency contractor training grants, and Section 50131, which provides funding for the latest and zero building energy code adoption. The legislation also rescinds unobligated balances made available under Sections 50122 and 50131.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these bills. The Department looks forward to working with you as we protect our Nation's energy security while lowering energy costs for all Americans.