

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL, *Ranking Member*

@EnergyDems

## **Opening Statement Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) Business Meeting on Bipartisan Energy Bill July 29, 2015**

“Thank you, Chairwoman Murkowski, and thank you for your hard work on this legislation. I too want to thank the staff for their continued, almost around the clock, work on various amendments for this legislation.

“I also want to say a few words about a handful of amendments that have been cleared.

“Senator Franken has spoken eloquently on a number of occasions about energy infrastructure challenges faced by many of our tribal communities. And along those lines, I’m very pleased that we are able to clear an amendment extending the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Tribal Energy Program.

“Sen. Stabenow had filed three amendments signaling her concern about recyclable paper and how it is burned in the forms of municipal solid waste. So this is an issue that I know Sen. Stabenow spoke to recently in the finance committee, so I’m pleased we are able to clear that amendment and make sure that we would preclude these types of projects in the DOE’s loan guarantee program moving forward.

“Sen. Warren has filed an amendment related to improving methodologies to help quantify energy savings associated with advanced building operations and I believe we’ve cleared that amendment which provides provisions in the underlying bill about smart buildings.

“Finally, and it comes to no surprise to the observers of the committee, there are a number of members who are very interested in what we can do to help accelerate the transformation to a more moderate and resilient grid. And along those lines, Sen. Wyden’s amendment adding additional provisions including concepts about transactive energy. So I’m proud that we’ve moved on that.

“Finally Sen. King’s amendment related to net metering. There’s been an awful lot of debate about the impact of state-by-state net metering and the impact of making distributed generation available to consumers across the state. I think it’s a very good idea, so I’m pleased that we are able to reach an agreement on that.

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“So with that Madam Chair, I know there’s been a circulated list of amendments that have been cleared by staff on both sides and we have provided copies of those amendments to each Senator’s office.

“So if there are no objections, I would like to move those amendments on block.”

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