

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 30, 2015**

“Thank you Madam Chair. And again I want to thank our staffs for working so diligently on this legislation not just last night, but for the entire time period. Obviously a lot of work has been put in by the committee’s individual staff members on each of these items, so I thank them as well.

“Today we are clearing a handful of amendments to the energy bill designed to address priorities outlined by the members of this committee.

“In particular I’d like to thank the Chair (Sen. Lisa Murkowski) for her work on clearing a handful of amendments for Senators on our side. Sen. Franken and Sen. Hirono, in expanding eligibility of Department of Energy (DOE) loan grant programs.

“Sen. Heinrich has an amendment that directs the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs for the purpose of improving regional engagement of our networks of national laboratories.

“The managers’ package also contains my amendment to strike certain provisions from the hydroelectric title, so the amendment simply preserves the status quo on that point that has been part of the Federal Power Act for 95 years.

“And I thank the Chair for clearing these amendments and I look forward to the discussions that we’re going to have today on the remaining amendments that we’re going to have votes on.

“So, if not, I move the Committee adopt the amendments on block. Capito 11, Franken 31, Heinrich 37, Hirono 39, and the original Cantwell text on hydro title 3.”

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