

BUSINESS MEETING OPENING STATEMENT

- The Committee will come to order.
- Today we will be considering legislation to address our country's energy, western water, and public lands infrastructure needs.
- We had a robust conversation in our hearing on a discussion draft nearly three weeks ago, and since then we have been continuing to hone and refine that legislation.
- I will acknowledge once again that we may not all agree on the size or scope of investment we need, but it is abundantly clear that my colleagues on the committee share the belief that our committee has a role to play when it comes to infrastructure.
- The bill we are going to be considering today reflects many changes that were made based on the suggestions made by Ranking Member Barrasso and many of our colleagues.
- While every section of the bill has seen some changes, at a high level those conversations have resulted in the inclusion of an extension of the fee that funds reclamation of abandoned mine lands, \$8.3 billion for western water infrastructure, and the removal of a permitting provision for gathering lines.
- I thank you all for the input over the past few weeks.
- With those modifications, the bill before us would authorize close to \$100 billion to:
 - invest in the reliability and resilience our electric grid and expand transmission;
 - demonstrate the energy technologies we need deployed;

- build out our domestic supply chains for clean energy technologies – from the sourcing of minerals to recycling of batteries;
 - invest in water infrastructure needed by western states, restore our ecosystems, and mitigate wildfire risk; and
 - clean up the abandoned energy infrastructure that powered our country to greatness while also reducing methane emissions.
- It not only includes provisions that have enjoyed strong bipartisan support in this Committee and bills, like the SCALE Act for carbon capture and CO2 infrastructure and the REGROW Act to cap orphaned wells, which have been championed by my colleagues around the room, but it also delivers on President Biden’s American Jobs Plan in many big ways and has earned the support of a wide swath of stakeholders.
- There are several amendments that we have been able to accept in a manager’s package, and several others that we will be discussing and voting on today.
- We will conduct that committee business in an orderly way, and after our work on amendments is done, I will urge my colleagues to support this robust infrastructure package.
- It is important to all of our states that infrastructure does not overlook needed investment in the energy sector, western water, wildfires and public lands.
- With that, I will turn to Ranking Member Barrasso for his opening statement.