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Introduction

Thank you, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich and distinguished Members of the Committee. It is an honor to testify before you today as a representative of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Priorities

Under President Trump and Secretary Wright's leadership, the Department of Energy has been hard at work implementing President Trump's agenda of restoring American Energy Dominance, lowering energy costs for Americans, and strengthening our national security.

S. 4166 Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid Act (SECURE Grid Act)

To maintain America's national security, we must strengthen our energy security by hardening U.S. electric grid infrastructure. The Trump Administration is committed to empowering state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to play a more active and significant role in energy resilience and preparedness. This will help States mitigate risks posed to the electric grid by empowering them to fully assess, review, and respond to risks from cyber and physical attacks, severe weather, and other vulnerabilities.

All 56 states and territories have completed a State Energy Security Plan. State Energy Offices (SESOs) rely on these plans to consider vulnerabilities to energy infrastructure, including cyber and physical attacks, this legislation formalizes the inclusion of additional data in these plans, particularly in the risk assessment section. It requires states to consider a variety of threats and vulnerabilities, including but not limited to, risks posed to local facilities, and the electric distribution network, increasing grid demands, and the potential for human error while operating critical energy infrastructure.

States consult with owners and operators in the private sector, whose innovation powers more than 80 percent of the country's energy infrastructure. Subsequently, SEOs rely upon these plans

to leverage resources from the State Energy Program to implement government programs and provide support to private industry.

Americans need a reliable, resilient, and secure electric grid. In an increasingly complex cyber and physical threat landscape, we must continue to collaborate and create a Federal policy that keeps the lights on for all Americans.

S. 5360 – Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act

DOE actively supports cybersecurity improvements for the 3,000 electric public power and cooperative utilities across our country. We know, in part based on the 2026 Annual Threat Assessment, these utilities are targets for cyberattacks and that many of them struggle to defend against the advanced capabilities of nation-state adversaries, often due to a lack of funding and personnel.

The Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Program (RMUC) seeks to strengthen the cybersecurity and resilience of public power and cooperative utilities. So far, the RMUC Program has assisted more than 500 eligible utilities. In 2026, 29 organizations will receive $54.8 million in funding across 650 distribution utilities to make targeted investments in cybersecurity technologies and to strengthen staff skills and utility policies. These short-term investments are designed to result in long-term improvements.

Sophisticated attacks on rural utilities illustrate the critical need for DOE to accelerate improvements in cyber readiness while also closing the rural resources gap. This is a problem that we look forward to solving with the help of the Committee.

S. 1568 – LIT Act

The LIT Act is designed to provide U.S. consumers with greater access to incandescent lights, which were largely phased out by the Biden Administration. Under the Trump Administration, DOE supports allowing for greater consumer choice. In particular, the LIT Act aligns with the principles of consumer choice by removing incandescent lamps from the list of covered products subject to DOE's efficiency regulations, eliminating the statutory standards applicable to these lamps, and terminating final rules published during the Biden Administration that adopted additional requirements for general service lamps.

S. 5338 – Energy Efficiency Reform Act of 2026

The Energy Efficiency Reform Act is designed to protect consumer choice and reduce costs to consumers. The Act would compel DOE to finalize a proposal published in July of this year that would require any future DOE energy conservation standards to meet specific thresholds regarding affordability while providing more certainty to regulated parties. The Act also would adopt a definition of significant energy savings, which would ensure that any future regulations lead to significant savings instead of burdensome minor incremental improvements.

The Act would adopt provisions that would ensure product availability, for example, by ensuring that consumers will have access to gas-burning products that are compatible with their existing venting types, but also by establishing provisions that clearly specify how DOE will consider product features in establishing new product classes and standards.

Specifically, the Act would undo the final rules published under the Biden Administration that established new energy conservation standards for consumer furnaces and commercial water heaters, which limited the types of product configurations available to consumers, and prevent DOE from adopting any future energy conservation standards for distribution transformers, a key component of our electrical grid.

S.5048 – Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act

The Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act amends the Federal Power Act to ensure federal agencies limit environmental and fishway mandates strictly to the direct impacts of the facility being licensed. This includes restricting conditions for federal reservations and preventing requirements for hydropower operators to fund broad, unrelated regional projects. By focusing on project-specific effects, the bill eliminates out-of-scope regulatory demands and streamlines the licensing process.

These amendments strengthen grid reliability and interagency coordination by providing regulatory certainty and lowering licensing barriers. This enables additional resources for hydropower assets and technology upgrades without creating operational or programmatic conflicts for DOE.

S.4116 – Geo POWER Act

The Geo POWER Act aims to advance next-generation geothermal electricity generation by establishing a Milestone-Based Geothermal Demonstration Program to provide innovative financing for projects in low-permeability and impermeable reservoirs, prioritizing new regions including Tribal lands, supporting data collection to reduce risks, and encouraging projects with at least 30 megawatts of capacity or innovative drilling, with the goal of accelerating commercialization and attracting private investment.

DOE's Office of Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy is playing a key role in advancing next-generation geothermal pilot projects and exploration drilling initiatives to spur innovation and expand the reach of geothermal technologies nationwide. DOE support is focused on identifying promising new geothermal power development opportunities and gathering critical data to help reduce risks and encourage development in new regions across the United States.

Conclusion

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and I look forward to working with you and your respective offices so that we can continue to ensure affordable, reliable, and secure energy for all American families and businesses. I look forward to your questions.