Chairman Manchin's opening remarks on the Department of Energy implementation of the Infrastructure Invest and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure law)

Introduction

- The Committee will come to order.

- I want to begin the 118th Congress by welcoming all our members especially including our new member, Senator Hawley.

- We'll be kicking off this year with a discussion of the Department of Energy's implementation of the bipartisan infrastructure law—the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

- I'd like to welcome and thank David Turk, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy, for appearing before the Committee today.

- In 2021, Congress worked in a bipartisan way to enact the most significant federal investment in our nation's infrastructure in decades, including approximately $100 billion in this Committee's jurisdiction alone, between the Interior and Energy Departments.

- This, combined with the energy security investments provided in the Inflation Reduction Act, will be game changing for us to become more energy secure through the increased domestic production of energy in the cleanest ways possible, leading the world in innovation and onshoring critical supply chains.

- This Committee considered 74 amendments and agreed to 48 before reporting our portion of the bill with bipartisan support.

- Now that the bipartisan infrastructure bill has been law for more than a year, we are here today to discuss how the Department of Energy is implementing the authorizations and $62 billion we provided them over the next 5 years.

- This bill marked a transformational investment in our energy future and will allow America to be more secure and lead the way on energy innovation for many years to come.

- The benefits of both the BIF and the IRA are already being felt across the country, including in my home state of West Virginia where we've been very happy to have new investment announcements in recent months.

- The BIF funds demonstration and pilot projects through an all-of-the-above energy approach by allowing us to continue using our fossil fuel resources in the cleanest way possible through new investments in hydrogen and carbon capture technologies.

- And we doubled down on hydrogen and CCUS in the IRA with new and enhanced tax credits.

- It also drives new energy manufacturing investments to coal country to support communities where coal mines or coal plants have closed, which will provide good jobs and a new tax base.

- The $62 billion appropriated to DOE through the bipartisan infrastructure law was one of the largest investments the Department has ever seen.

- This works hand in hand with the Inflation Reduction Act to really boost American innovation, competitiveness, and security.

- So we've clearly given the Department of Energy a lot of work to do.

- Congress has spoken clearly over the last two years, between the Energy Act, the BIF, and the IRA, that the United States has an all-of-the-above energy policy that supports using all of our God-given resources in the cleanest way possible.

- That's how we shore up our energy security, achieve energy independence, while also addressing climate change.

- It is my intention to make sure that these laws are implemented swiftly, effectively, and in line with that clear Congressional intent, and I want to know about any barriers to doing just that.

- For that reason, I am very glad that Deputy Secretary Turk has agreed to appear before us today for this important discussion.

- I just want to mention one last thing unrelated to our hearing topic today.

- Gas stoves have been in the news lately, and I've come out strongly against the Consumer Product Safety Commission pursuing any ban of gas stoves.

- In fact, I'm introducing legislation today with Senator Cruz that would ensure they don't. And separately sending a letter to the Commission with Senator Lankford seeking clarification about the Commission's sudden desire to conduct an RFI on gas stoves.

- Yesterday DOE published its first ever efficiency standard for cooktops, including gas stoves.

- I've always been a proponent of energy efficiency, but the draft rule proposes efficiency levels that DOE says, at the highest level, up to 96% of gas stoves don't currently meet.

- Now, I know DOE is required to write a rule on stovetop efficiency, and that this is the beginning of that process not a final rule.

- But in light of the broader concerns about the Administration looking to find ways to push out natural gas, I think it's prudent to say we're looking at this.

- As I've said before - the federal government has no business telling American families how to cook their dinner.

- Now I will recognize Senator Barrasso for his opening statement.

[Senator Barrasso gives opening statement]

- Next I'll turn to you, Deputy Secretary Turk, for your statement.

[Turk gives opening statement]

- Thank you, Deputy Secretary Turk. Now we'll begin with questions.