

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“Appliance and Building Policies: Resorting the American Dream of Home Ownership and
Consumer Choice.”
September 16, 2025
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and thank you to our witnesses for being here to testify.

Today, we will examine legislation to restore consumer choice in the appliances and homes Americans purchase, reverse federal buildings policies that put our nation’s security at risk, and restrict activist states and localities from implementing policies that ban energy services based on the fuel source.

As many of the subcommittee members stated last week: we all support energy efficiency gains, but affordability must be at the forefront of that conversation.

Bad building codes have decreased housing production and can add up to \$31,000 to the price of a new home; egregious appliance standards have caused homeowners to spend 34 percent more on appliances than they did 15 years ago, while having to replace them at a faster rate; and anti-fossil fuel agendas have raised energy prices and jeopardized reliability for millions of consumers.

Furthermore, many policies put forth in the name of energy efficiency don’t result in substantial energy gains. Some, like natural gas bans, actually *increase* energy use and consumer prices.

In Kentucky, homeowners using gas for heating save \$610 annually as compared to electric-only alternatives, and the state has protected energy choice in statute. All Americans deserve to make that same choice based on what works best for their families and pocketbooks.

Today, Republicans bring solutions to the table. The pieces of legislation being discussed today will reform the broken statutory process for energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment, repeal fossil fuel phase outs and bans, reduce regulatory confusion, and nullify IRA programs that coerce states to adopt rigid building codes.

As Chair Latta mentioned, the subcommittee will also discuss a bill from Representative Tonko on the DOE weatherization program, and we’re willing to work with our Democratic colleagues to see if we can reach a compromise on it.

I look forward to hearing our witnesses' perspectives on these issues, and the impacts they have on American families and businesses.

Thank you and I yield back.