

As a former union member, I understand the critical importance of standing together for workers' rights. I know how unions can be a powerful force for change, ensuring working families have a fair shot at the American Dream. That is why the Protect America's Workforce Act is so vital. It is time for Congress to come together in a bipartisan way to pass this legislation that will protect Federal workers from attacks that threaten their livelihoods and their families.

□ 1750

Federal workers are the backbone of our Nation. From FEMA teams helping wildfire survivors to VA staff caring for our veterans to Social Security workers making sure seniors can live with dignity, these are the people who serve us every day. They are not faceless government employees. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our families.

These attacks on their rights are not abstract. They are real, and they are personal. Over the past few months, I have heard from many Federal workers in Oregon who have faced illegal firings, threats, and mistreatment. They have shared how these actions are creating fear and instability in their lives and communities. One Federal worker, a disabled combat veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was recently fired from his job at the USDA. He summed it up perfectly when he said: "This is not the America I swore an oath to protect."

That is the sentiment I know many of us in this Chamber share. Federal workers, like that veteran, swore an oath to protect this country. Their dedication and service have been unwavering. We owe them the same commitment in return. I am grateful for the way we have come together across party lines to ensure the rights of working people and protect those who serve our Nation.

I stand strong with our Federal workers and with all working families across Oregon. I commend my colleagues for coming together to fight for what is right. I am eager to continue this work alongside all of you to prioritize the needs of working families.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we act. It is time we pass the Protect America's Workforce Act because our workers cannot wait. Congress must honor their service and ensure their rights are enshrined today.

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on March 27, President Trump issued an executive order that took away the collective bargaining rights of more than a million Federal workers at over 30 agencies under the guise of protecting our national security. This includes VA employees, food and safety inspection service workers, health and human service employees, including those at the CDC and the FDA.

These workers now have had their voices silenced and have no whistleblower protection if they report about working conditions or safety or even illegal actions taken by their agency. They have lost their voice to demand fair treatment or due process, and they have lost the protection for their job.

This is coming from an administration who has been clear that they have no respect for the Federal workforce or even in some cases for the rule of law, who has said that they want to put the Federal workforce in trauma to force them to leave.

The Protect America's Workforce Act nullifies this order and restores all collective bargaining agreements that were in effect before March 26, 2025.

These collective bargaining agreements were bargained in good faith and are a contract between the Federal Government and the people that work for us.

Anyone who says that they are looking out for American workers should support restoring and protecting the collective bargaining rights to allow everyday people, our Federal workforce, to achieve economic security and dignity by speaking with one powerful, unified voice. A union helps workers use their power by standing together to level the playing field.

It is disappointing that this bill couldn't come to the floor through the regular process as there is enough bipartisan support to pass this good and critical legislation, but that didn't happen.

I am grateful to my colleague, JARED GOLDEN, for filing this discharge petition. I am proud to speak in favor of it. This is a good bill. I encourage my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### STATE PLANNING FOR RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 936, I call up the bill (H.R. 3628) to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to add a standard related to State consideration of reliable generation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Pursuant to House Resolution 936, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3628

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act".

#### SEC. 2. STATE CONSIDERATION OF RELIABLE GENERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(22) ENSURING ELECTRIC RELIABILITY WITH RELIABLE GENERATION FACILITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State regulated electric utility that employs integrated resource planning shall establish, as part of such integrated resource planning, measures, sufficient to ensure the reliable availability of electric energy over a 10-year period, to maintain—

"(i) the operation of reliable generation facilities; or

"(ii) the procurement of electric energy from reliable generation facilities.

"(B) RELIABLE GENERATION FACILITY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'reliable generation facility' means an electric generation facility that ensures the reliable availability of electric energy by—

"(i) having operational characteristics to enable the generation of electric energy on a continuous basis for a period of not fewer than 30 days;

"(ii) having—

"(I) adequate fuel, or a continuously available energy source, on-site to enable the generation of electric energy on a continuous basis for a period of not fewer than 30 days; or

"(II) contractual obligations that ensure adequate fuel supply to achieve the generation of electric energy on a continuous basis for a period of not fewer than 30 days;

"(iii) having operational characteristics to enable the generation of electric energy during emergency and severe weather conditions; and

"(iv) providing essential services related to the reliable availability of electric energy, including frequency support and voltage support."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) OBLIGATIONS TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE.—Section 112 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2622) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

"(9)(A) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each State regulated electric utility for which the State has ratemaking authority) shall commence consideration under section 111, or set a hearing date for consideration, with respect to the standard established by paragraph (22) of section 111(d).

"(B) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each State regulated electric utility for which the State has ratemaking authority) shall complete the consideration and make the determination under section 111 with respect to the standard established by paragraph (22) of section 111(d)."

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking "subsection (b)(2)" and inserting "subsection (b)"; and

(ii) by inserting “In the case of the standard established by paragraph (22) of section 111(d), the reference contained in this subsection to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of that paragraph (22).” after “paragraph (21).”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) OTHER PRIOR STATE ACTIONS.—Subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply to the standard established by paragraph (22) of section 111(d) in the case of any State regulated electric utility in a State if, before the date of enactment of this subsection—

“(1) the State has implemented for the State regulated electric utility the standard (or a comparable standard);

“(2) the State regulatory authority for the State has conducted a proceeding to consider implementation of the standard (or a comparable standard) for the State regulated electric utility; or

“(3) the State legislature has voted on the implementation of the standard (or a comparable standard) for the State regulated electric utility during the 3-year period ending on that date of enactment.”.

(2) PRIOR AND PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Section 124 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2634) is amended by inserting “In the case of the standard established by paragraph (22) of section 111(d), the reference contained in this section to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of that paragraph (22).” after “paragraph (21).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in part D of House Report 119-399, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3628.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3628, the State Planning For Reliability and Affordability Act, sponsored by my colleague Congressman EVANS from Colorado.

H.R. 3628 directs State public utility commissions to consider implementing

measures that would ensure utilities retain sufficient, reliable generation through their integrated resource plans to maintain the stability and affordability of their electric grids.

Over 35 States utilize resource plans to ensure their utilities are appropriately planning their investments in the electric grid.

The U.S. grid, commonly referred to as the greatest machine on Earth, is a complex system compromised of myriad components and infrastructure to deliver electricity that powers our economy and enables modern life for households.

To ensure the timely delivery of electricity at all times of the day, utilities have historically undergone extensive planning processes to methodically deploy ratepayer dollars to build requisite infrastructure.

Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen States move away from an integrated resource planning process centered on reliability and affordability toward one intended to achieve climate and environmental justice goals.

□ 1800

The central focus of utility planning must be on the end-use ratepayers, keeping the lights on for households at an affordable price. Unfortunately, the States that have taken the most aggressive stance on climate goals are the same States with the highest electricity rates in the country.

H.R. 3628 is fuel neutral and focused on attributes that are essential to reliability and affordability, such as frequency and voltage support. This legislation ensures that baseload and dispatchable resources, such as natural gas, hydropower, coal, and nuclear, are sufficiently considered as part of any 10-year plan.

There is a road for a diverse energy mix that includes renewables and storage, but we know that not all electrons are the same.

This is the exact message that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has heard in hearings with grid operators, utilities, engineers, and those charged with protecting the reliability of our grid. In fact, just last month, the head of the NERC called the current reliability crisis a five-alarm fire.

The State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act prioritizes the resources we need most. It will encourage States to take more responsibility over their systems.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. It is a wholesale attack on clean energy under the guise of reliability. Americans can see through the nonsense here to the truth, and that is that Republicans are waging a culture war against wind and

solar. American families are footing the bill with higher monthly utility bills.

For a moment, I want to try to take Republicans at their word, that this bill is all about electric reliability, ensuring that the lights won't go out. In that case, I have excellent news for my Republican colleagues. The law this bill amends, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, or PURPA, already does that. The law requires States to have an integrated resource plan that considers reliability. That is all we need to do, and Congress already did it 33 years ago.

Of course, the only difference between that law and the language in this bill is the bogus definition about what counts as “reliable generation facility.” It should come as no surprise that the only things that count are coal, natural gas, and nuclear. That is it, not wind, not solar, not either of those even when paired with battery storage. It is completely ridiculous and the latest example of Republicans' relentless attack on cheaper and cleaner energy sources.

Ever since President Trump took office earlier this year, Republicans have been obsessed with crusading against wind and solar whenever they can. They passed the big, ugly bill, which slashed tax incentives for clean energy and made electricity more expensive for everyone. They have tried to kill every wind or solar project on Federal lands and in Federal waters, driving up people's energy bills even further. Now, they are trying to put another thumb on the scale in favor of dirty fossil energy by pushing a bill with a fake definition of “reliable generation.”

Unfortunately, the American people are paying the price. This past summer, when much of the United States was in a so-called heat dome fueled by climate change, the grid's electricity regulators said that solar helped save the day, preventing dangerous outages in that record heat.

The reality is that no single source of electricity is perfect, but that is why storage and a diversity of generation resources are so important. Republicans don't care about how we can actually help the grid. Instead, they only care about extending fossil fuels at the expense of clean, cheap energy.

This is just another instance when Republicans are doing the bidding of their corporate polluter friends over the needs of the American people. If they cared about the American people, they would be bringing bills to the floor that would actually address the affordability crisis. Instead, Republicans are debating this bill that they know will increase prices for Americans.

By forcing States to consider preferencing dirty and expensive fossil energy, Republicans are increasing everyone's utility bills even more than they already have. It is just more of the same from a Republican Congress that is dead set on increasing costs for American families.

I don't understand it, Madam Speaker. President Trump promised to cut Americans' power bills in half. Instead, he and Republicans are causing them to soar with their backward policies and their war on cheaper, cleaner energy. Since Trump took office, electricity prices are up 13 percent, and natural gas prices are up 8 percent. They simply don't care. They would rather continue to push bills like this that will make the affordability crisis even worse.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), my good friend and colleague on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for getting this bill here to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3628, the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act, sponsored by my colleague from Colorado's Eighth District. This legislation ensures that States take responsibility for their policy decisions that impact households' access to affordable and reliable supplies of electricity.

It is clear that we are in the midst of a reliability and affordability crisis caused by the Biden administration and decisions by States to attack baseload power supplies. Let me be clear: There is nothing more expensive than a blackout, and that was the path created by the Biden administration.

In 2008, House Republicans developed an all-of-the-above energy strategy. This meant that the Federal Government didn't pick winners and losers. The data is clear. States with the most aggressive forms of clean energy standards are the same States with the higher electricity bills.

Across the country, rate case filings by utilities detail the reasons for rising costs: new infrastructure to meet State climate goals, stranded assets of prematurely retired power plants, and the need for additional backup generation to keep the lights on when the weather doesn't cooperate.

Just look at States like New York, whose own grid operator has begun sounding the alarm over how their State laws are driving up baseload generation resources that could threaten the integrity of their system.

Comparatively, States that have responsibly maintained reliability of their system have enjoyed affordable electricity rates and an influx of investment into energy-intensive industries, such as domestic manufacturing, that drive economic growth.

The central focus on resource planning must be affordability and reliability.

While climate and environmental justice goals of States seem laudable, the greatest harm that could come to

our communities is a grid without enough electricity. In every facet, our modern life is uniquely dependent on a reliable and affordable electric grid.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3628 brings common sense back to integrated resource planning, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who is the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Energy.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3628. I think we all know that our neighbors are really struggling with higher electric bills. They are really grappling with how to pay these higher costs.

Household electricity prices across America are up by 13 percent this year—17 percent in North Carolina and 15 percent in the State of Georgia. Folks really are at their wits' end because it is all coming down at once.

In Florida, the three largest investor-owned utilities have requested \$34 billion in price hikes this year. Last month, the DeSantis-appointed utility commission approved a \$7 billion rate hike for Florida Power & Light customers. FPL customers will be paying much more over the next few years.

In Tampa, I was with some neighbors who were burning their electric bills, throwing them into a garbage can, lighting them on fire because they are struggling to keep the lights on. If you are a TECO customer, you are going to be paying about \$939 more annually than you were 5 years ago.

□ 1810

Madam Speaker, folks back home are really wondering: Can Congress get its act together to help lower the cost of living and work on solutions? I hate to report that, no, Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration have shown no interest in doing that or in tackling lower electric bills. In fact, they are making it worse.

Electric bills are going up for a number of reasons. Let's talk about it.

There is the big, ugly bill that Republicans passed in July. That is projected to raise electricity rates by 61 percent. Why? They took away a lot of the tax credits to speed cheaper energy onto the grid. They ripped away rebates to help consumers save money on their electric bills. They canceled a lot of jobs that were helping people pay the bills.

Then when we add on the arbitrary tariffs of the Trump administration, that has a significant cost. Projections are that the average household is going to pay about \$1,600 more per year. Some estimates are up to about \$2,000 a year. That is, yes, on our coffee and groceries and consumer goods. It is also impacting electric bills. We do import poles and wires and energy, and that is raising electric bills, too.

The Trump administration has also canceled billions of dollars' worth of cheaper, cleaner energy projects and solar projects in every State. No one has been immune to this. That has also fed into skyrocketing electric bills. All of this adds up.

We are looking at a healthcare cliff in just another couple of weeks. Congress has only one more week to act to reinstitute the ACA tax credits. That is 4.5 million Floridians who will face higher healthcare bills, in addition to what they are doing to higher electric bills and our groceries. I would say to American families that they deserve so much better than they are getting here.

This bill, H.R. 3628, amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act to four States to favor more expensive, dirty energy over cleaner, cheaper energy. It is a ridiculous requirement that they want to add, and it directly conflicts with the provisions in the law right now that require States to maintain a diverse portfolio of electricity and engage in prudent resource planning.

Who loves this? Oil and gas companies love it. Investor-owned utilities love it. They will profit at the expense of hardworking Americans. Energy generated by wind, solar, and stored in batteries is often cheaper. It should make up a substantial portion of our electricity portfolio.

Madam Speaker, we need to lower electric bills by speeding cleaner and cheaper energy to the grid, especially to meet rising demand, and to do it while we protect clean air and clean water. America cannot afford to turn its back on half of all of the new electricity that is poised to come onto the grid over the next 5 years.

We need a modern transmission system and a modern electric grid. We need to speed up clean energy and not throw a wrench in it and make people pay more back home. They are already paying too much.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS), a very important member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today in strong support of my bill, the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act, to help drive down the cost of energy for Coloradans and Americans.

This is a straightforward piece of legislation that will help counteract shortsighted energy policies that States like Colorado have implemented for far too long to the detriment of my constituents and their wallets.

This commonsense bill would require State public utility commissions like the Colorado PUC to consider implementing policy that focuses on long-term energy reliability which, of course, helps affordability.

My constituents are facing an energy crisis in no small part due to the skyrocketing costs of utilities in Colorado,

and that has happened during the last 4 years under Democrat control both at the Federal and the State level.

Coloradans are paying 24 percent more in electricity now than they were just 4 years ago, and it is easy to see why. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission and statewide Democrats have been enacting one bad policy after another, from shutting down power plants that provide reliable baseload power to mandating so-called beneficial electrification which seeks to ban natural gas for residential heating by 2050. The results have been catastrophic. A nonpartisan report from earlier this year found the following:

“Driven by State policy mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, electricity prices are projected to grow at more than three times the rate of inflation and nearly 13 times the growth rate from 2010 to 2020.”

That report goes on to project that by 2030, the average Colorado household will spend \$390 to \$504 more annually due to rates outpacing inflation and historic trends, all Colorado households combined will spend between \$970 million and \$1.25 billion more in electricity costs. The average electricity rate will grow by 56 percent, from 12 cents a kilowatt-hour to 18.4 cents a kilowatt-hour.

That is not partisan conjecture. Those are the cold, hard facts that my constituents have to face.

Americans are tired of partisan energy policies like the ones we saw in the previous administration, which is why my legislation takes a fair and balanced approach that supports a wide range of reliable energy generation from more traditional sources like natural gas to greener sources like nuclear and hydropower.

It shouldn't be a left versus right issue. If an energy source is reliable and drives down costs, it should be on the table.

I would remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that financial stress induced by higher utility costs also increases negative health outcomes.

We need balance, not heavy-handed leftist mandates that harm the economy, increase costs, and increase poverty, which, again, increases negative health outcomes.

Madam Speaker, we know that energy demand is going up, not down. Nationally, demand is expected to surge by over 50 percent in the next 15 years. In States like Colorado, where we are leading in the AI race and the resurgence of manufacturing, it is even higher.

My local utility has projected energy demand will triple in the next 10 years. The three biggest cities in my district have cited power shortages as the biggest inhibitors to growth.

While my bill focuses on affordability, it is also about national security. If America is to onshore manufacturing capabilities and compete with China militarily and otherwise, we

need reliable energy. As a former National Guardsman who has been deployed to a combat zone, that is of critical importance to me, as well.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this commonsense bill is simple. It helps bolster American innovation, keeps the lights on rain or shine, and helps reduce utility bills for the middle class. As a Representative of a district that is at the forefront of American energy dominance, I am proud to stand on the floor today and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for reliable energy and lower bills for all Americans.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), our assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, only in Washington, D.C., can politicians who vote to give tax breaks to the biggest oil companies and fossil fuel companies on planet Earth come down to the floor of the House and argue that their legislative efforts are going to lower electricity prices.

Only in Washington, D.C., can politicians stand by as energy projects in their own districts are decimated by their inaction and then claim that they are championing efforts to improve the reliability of the grid.

My colleague from Colorado made a lot of references to local utility efforts in our home State. What he failed to mention in his quest to improve reliability of the grid is that several projects in his own district were eliminated by the Trump administration just 5 weeks ago. My colleague from Colorado, like virtually every single Member of the Republican Conference, did nothing to stop it, nothing.

By the way, we are not talking about small projects. This is the headline. “Colorado company may close after Trump administration cuts funding for nearly 3 dozen energy projects in the State.”

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I will quote this article, Madam Speaker: “In all, DOE eliminated \$7.6 billion in projects in 16 States, all of which are led by Democrats.”

Here is the kicker: “But some of the projects are in Republican congressional districts, including a \$27 million grant in Colorado’s Eighth Congressional District, which Representative Gabe Evans, a Republican, represents.”

GABE EVANS is the author of this legislation we are debating today.

I will quote another article. This is the local utility, Madam Speaker, in Fort Lupton, which I believe is the sponsor of this legislation’s hometown. I will just quote: “The Fort Lupton Microgrid project was submitted with the goal of increasing the reliability of the city’s municipal water treatment plant.”

This is another project, \$6.1 million, Madam Speaker, that was

unceremoniously cut 1 month ago by President Trump.

If we want to get serious about the reliability of the grid and if we want to address the ballooning electricity costs that are a direct byproduct of the bill that Republicans passed earlier this summer, then a good way to start would be to tell the Department of Energy to stop eliminating energy projects in Brighton, in Fort Lupton, in Fort Collins, and in Longmont, the communities I represent and the communities that my colleague from Colorado represents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his indulgence.

By the way, Madam Speaker, just so that we are clear, this bill does absolutely nothing as a practical matter. I welcome Chairman GUTHRIE’s response on this front. It does nothing to impose new standards, it does nothing to compel State public utility commissions to adopt new standards, and it does nothing to require these commissions to implement new standards.

It simply says that commissions must consider them.

This is basically a press release. That is what this bill is. We could have spared everyone the time and just got on with it so that we can actually get to the substance of addressing the inflation cost crisis that Republicans have unleashed on Coloradans and on Americans writ large, but, no, we are here to debate this very carefully constructed press release that ultimately will accomplish nothing if it is ever signed into law.

Madam Speaker, I am voting “no,” and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), who is a member of our committee.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as families across the entire country are struggling with rising costs at the grocery store, on their healthcare, their health insurance, and this year especially, on their utility bills. In fact, in Washington State, average electricity rates are up nearly 17 percent since Trump took office less than 1 year ago.

With energy demand skyrocketing in the region, prices have continued to climb.

Let me be clear. This is a direct result of the harmful and reckless policies of this President and Republicans in Congress. They have canceled billions of dollars in investments for our State, including the hydrogen hub that would expand research and development of hydrogen fuel, bolster American energy dominance, and bring nearly 10,000 jobs to the region.

They have created chaos at critical agencies that keep the lights on like Bonneville Power Administration. Moreover, with their big, ugly bill they have gutted clean energy investments meant to lower utility bills and strengthen our energy infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest and keep the lights on.

With Republicans in charge here in Washington, D.C., jobs and innovation are down, clean energy projects are canceled, and energy prices are up. My constituents deserve better. They want real solutions that will lower costs and better their lives.

At a time when families are struggling to pay for the essentials, the single most valuable thing we can do in the energy sector is roll out more low-cost, clean energy, not hinder it.

We have a real shot at meaningful reforms that will cut red tape and accelerate the build-out of abundant, affordable energy. We can build more power lines for a more connected and nimble grid, and we can secure our supply chain of critical grid infrastructure, as well.

This bill that we are voting on today does none of that, and that is why I am asking my colleagues to oppose this bill and start a good-faith, bipartisan discussion to bring real solutions to the American people, not just empty promises.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MULLIN), who is also a member of our committee.

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act. This measure will encourage State regulators to push our grid toward more expensive and polluting sources of energy at the very moment families are struggling with rising energy bills.

Across this country, households and small businesses are seeing electricity costs rise by hundreds of dollars. Demand for power is rising quickly, and this year, utilities have already proposed major rate hikes to the tune of \$34 billion. Instead of helping lower bills with forward-looking technology, this legislation takes us backward, effectively promoting energy sources that take longer to build and deploy and cost more to operate.

These are costs that will be passed on directly to everyday Americans.

This comes 1 year after President Trump promised to cut energy prices in half. Instead, on his watch, prices are rising. According to multiple press reports, he privately urged oil executives to spend \$1 billion in support of his campaign last year in exchange for promoting their interests as President.

Perhaps it is no surprise we are seeing policies that benefit the most expensive energy sources instead of the cheapest options available to consumers.

Utility-scale solar and wind are the lowest-cost sources of new power today. Together with battery storage, they can be built quickly, strengthen reliability, and keep bills down. This bill undermines State planning processes that would promote reliable and cheap sources of energy, which also happen to be the cleanest. It limits choice and will slow energy innovation, keeping prices higher than they need to be.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and work together on real solutions that lower energy bills for the American people.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, may I ask the chairman if he is prepared to close.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has the right to close.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to object to the Trump administration and congressional Republicans' disastrous energy policies and their impacts on everyday Americans.

We have a duty to ensure that our power grid can keep the lights on. That demands an all-of-the-above approach to energy. Given the unprecedented demand to add capacity to our grid as AI data centers continue to expand, we need to use every tool that we can to keep energy prices down. That means adding clean energy to the grid. It is the quickest source of energy to add to the grid given the current multiyear gas turbine shortage.

Grid reliability regulators have been basically clear: Renewable energy and batteries were critical in allowing the grid to endure multiple heat waves this summer.

That is why Texas has added more solar and wind energy to their power grid, more than any other State in the country, in the wake of their horrific blackouts during Winter Storm Uri 4 years ago. That is because solar energy helps keep the lights on.

Unfortunately, Republicans seem uninterested in acknowledging that basic reality, that solar and wind, partnered with batteries, can be an essential part of a reliable power grid. Instead, they have done everything they can to increase the costs of these technologies and make it harder to add clean energy to the grid. They are using their power to subsidize dirty, expensive fossil fuel, all at the cost of American families who are struggling to afford their electricity bills.

□ 1830

Now, if you don't believe me, just ask Secretary Chris Wright. At an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing in June, he was blunt. The Secretary said: "I have never been for all of the above, and if I said it at one point in time, I

misspoke." There you have it, Madam Speaker.

The Trump administration is staunchly against all of the above. The Secretary is saying it, and that makes sense. Their actions at least match their rhetoric. They are doing everything they can to put their thumb on the scale for dirty energy, including through this bill, H.R. 3628. They are canceling every single clean energy project they possibly can, no matter how helpful it might be to keeping electricity bills down or the lights on.

Madam Speaker, the bills on the floor today will only worsen the Republican affordability crisis. Every time Americans open their power bill or see their lights flicker, Republicans are responsible. I think the American people will hold them accountable.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, first, I thank Congressman EVANS for sponsoring the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act. Let's go back to what this bill does.

H.R. 3628 directs State public utility commissions to consider implementing measures that would ensure utilities retain sufficient reliable generation through their integrated resource plan to maintain the stability and affordability of their electric grids.

We have had a lot of discussion. We have been debating for the last few months. The Affordable Care Act passed 15 years ago. Insurance rates have doubled since that passed, and now, we are debating whether to deal with the rising costs of health insurance or continue to subsidize the rising costs. We want to deal with the underlying costs of health insurance.

We are talking about the affordability of green energy or clean energy. I am for all of the above, but if you remember what the Secretary said, he said he is for the best of the above. There are areas where the Sun shines and the Sun shines bright, and it shines bright on my old Kentucky home. There are areas for that. There are areas where solar makes sense, where wind makes sense, and where fossil fuels make sense.

When he says best of the above, he doesn't mean we don't do all of it. We do what fits in the right place at the cheapest price for our citizens. When you talk about investing in your own utilities, if clean energy—they keep saying they are going to go for more expensive energy as opposed to the cleaner energy. That is what they say. I will say, I think our energy companies want to go to the most affordable energy. That is what they want to produce.

What this does, if you look at the map, and a lot of people have looked at maps of energy prices, what are the highest cost electric prices in the country? I know my friend from Colorado

pointed out to my other friend from Colorado that Colorado is up in the grid with California, New Jersey, and New York. They have higher energy prices, and it is because their general assemblies and their State governments have put additional climate issues in place, not to make energy more affordable, but it makes it more expensive. What we are saying here is that State planning commissions have to ensure in their plans that they look at affordability, reliability, and sustainability within their grids.

That is what this piece of legislation does. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF WEST VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part D of House Report 119-399.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following section:

**SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING IN ENSURING SUFFICIENT RELIABLE GENERATION FACILITIES.**

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of integrated resource planning employed by State regulated electric utilities prior to the implementation of section 111(d)(22) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)(22)), as added by section 2 of this Act, in ensuring sufficient reliable generation facilities to maintain the reliability, stability, and affordability of electric service for electric consumers.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELECTRIC CONSUMER; INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING; STATE REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The terms “electric consumer”, “integrated resource planning”, and “State regulated electric utility” have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602).

(2) RELIABLE GENERATION FACILITY.—The term “reliable generation facility” has the meaning given such term in section 111(d)(22) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)(22)), as added by section 2 of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 936, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Under President Joe Biden, energy prices skyrocketed. The Trump administration is working around the clock to unleash American energy and drive

down prices. Americans are starting to see the results at the pump and in their energy bills, but this only underscores the need for more cheap, abundant, and reliable baseload energy to power America's new golden age.

Currently, States require utilities to develop integrated resource plans to assess reliable electrical generation and provide affordable electricity to consumers. These integrated resource plans provide a framework for producing reliable electricity for American businesses, hardworking Americans, and families.

Unfortunately, Democrat-led States have used these integrated resource plans to push woke climate and environmental justice goals, prioritizing leftwing ideology over making life affordable for American families. Worst of all, these blue States have required utilities to shutter baseload power plants while promoting wind and solar.

These reckless policies place our grid at risk and send energy prices skyrocketing.

Demand for energy will increase by nearly 151 gigawatts over the next decade. However, another 115 gigawatts of reliable generation have announced anticipated retirements over that same period. The Department of Energy projected that of the planned 209 gigawatts of the new generation by 2030, only 22 gigawatts would come from reliable baseload generation.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation called our electrical reliability crisis a “five-alarm fire.” It is clear that blue States' destructive policies prioritize the green new scam over reliable power, making our grid more unreliable and life unaffordable for Americans.

We must act now to ensure baseload power reaches American consumers and staves off this looming crisis.

My amendment to the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act requires the comptroller general of the Government Accountability Office to review existing integrated resource plan processes to assess whether they sufficiently consider reliable generation in their portfolios.

My amendment requires transparency and ensures reliable baseload power remains the backbone of our grid.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to deliver reliable, affordable energy to American households and unleash America's golden age by ensuring coal, oil, and natural gas remain an integral piece of our energy mix.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I urge opposition to the amendment because it doubles down on a bogus and misleading definition of “reliable genera-

tion,” a definition that would only include coal, natural gas, and nuclear power plants.

While I would typically have no problem with a GAO report, I do have a problem with Republicans pretending that fossil fuel generation is perfect and that there is no room for clean, cheap energy in a diversified grid.

In the last few years, Republicans have moved away from saying that clean energy is too expensive and are now claiming it is unreliable. Madam Speaker, the only reason they have done that is because they have firmly and permanently lost the argument. Clean energy is cheap energy. Everyone knows it, even Republicans now.

In their desperation to keep Americans' energy bills high to keep the profits flowing for oil and gas, Republicans have started peddling the falsehood that clean energy isn't reliable. I want to be clear: There is no such thing as a perfectly reliable power plant. They all can run into problems. Renewables depend on wind and the Sun. Coal and gas often have issues in extreme heat or cold. That is why it is important that we pursue an all-of-the-above approach.

Unfortunately, President Trump and his Secretary of Energy don't believe in all of the above. Instead, Republicans are out here working overtime to shill for coal and gas. It is just very sad.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1840

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, baseload energy in this country is absolutely quantified and defined by natural gas, nuclear, and coal. That is baseload energy in this country.

The reason green energy was ever affordable or cheaper is because everybody in America is subsidizing it right now with their tax dollars. That is the only reason that it ever became competitive. It is because we are subsidizing a broken system.

Green energy is consistent in its inability to produce baseload energy, reliability, or consistency. It is not consistent in its ability to transmit even down the power lines that are currently in place, which many times they have to construct new ones.

This is a report—by the way, this is just a report—which I think is so critical to assessing our plans here to have cheap, abundant, reliable energy for the United States and the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings will be postponed.

## ELECTRIC SUPPLY CHAIN ACT

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3638.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 936 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3638.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1844

### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3638) to direct the Secretary of Energy to prepare periodic assessments and submit reports on the supply chain for the generation and transmission of electricity, and for other purposes, with Mr. MOYLAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3638, the Electric Supply Chain Act, sponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

This legislation directs the Department of Energy to conduct ongoing assessments and report to Congress on the components and infrastructure supply chain needed to secure the reli-

ability and affordability of our bulk power system.

It is no secret that we find ourselves in the middle of an electric reliability crisis that is threatening the integrity of our bulk power systems and an affordability crisis that burdens households with higher energy bills.

Unfortunately, 4 years of the Biden-Harris administration and excessive litigation, permitting delays, and far-left regulatory decisions to attack baseload power sources in favor of expensive and unreliable wind and solar have handicapped the ability of our bulk power systems to respond to growing demands for energy.

Historic projections of increasing electricity demand from domestic manufacturing, onshoring, and AI data centers have exposed systemic challenges facing our electric sector and the supply chain for components and infrastructure needed to power the system.

Meanwhile, our overreliance on China for manufacturing and critical minerals has created a reliance on our own strategic adversary for our supply chain needs.

Our electric grid is an essential tool for the national and economic security of our Nation. Simply put, we need to work with the Trump administration to make it easier to build in our country so that free-market investment for the electric supply chain flow into communities across the country, driving economic growth and creating good-paying jobs for households.

That is why the Electric Supply Chain Act will ensure that our Federal Government remains in a proactive posture to assess, identify, and address any challenges to our supply chain grid for grid components. H.R. 3638 takes a comprehensive look at the supply chain for our electric grid and appropriately incorporates the advice and views of experts spanning the power sector.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3638 requires the Department of Energy to conduct an assessment and draft periodic reports on the state of the electric supply chain.

I understand that our electric supply chain is important for national security and grid reliability, but I have to question the Republicans' seriousness in making this request and the ability of the Department of Energy to conduct these assessments and draft the periodic reports.

President Trump has decimated and undermined our Federal agencies and dedicated civil servants who fulfill their missions while also stealing Federal funds promised to local communities all across the Nation. He has created constant uncertainty for businesses with the administration's ever-changing tariff regime.

Mr. Chair, as we consider this bill, it is important that we consider the con-

text in which it will be implemented, if enacted into law.

This bill is asking the Department of Energy to do more with less. Elon Musk and the DOGE minions decimated the Department of Energy, purging more than 3,500 dedicated and hard-working Department staff. On top of that, just a few weeks ago, Secretary Wright unveiled a reorganization of the agency that eliminated key offices, including the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, which would have been tasked with carrying out the very report required by this bill.

□ 1850

Back in October, DOE canceled over \$7 billion in energy project awards throughout the Nation, including nearly \$1 billion from projects funded through the then Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains. My office heard from numerous awardees who were left confused and frustrated by the complete lack of communication from DOE on this matter. Many of these grantees heard about their grant cancellation by reading stories in the media, and some still have not received any formal communication from the Department of Energy.

If the Department of Energy doesn't even have the capacity to communicate with grantees who were promised Federal support that has now been stolen away, one really has to wonder if the Trump DOE would prioritize staff time for the development of this report.

After all, the Trump Department of Energy does not respond to inquiries from Congress. We have reached out to Secretary Wright on several occasions, demanding answers about the staffing cuts and project cancellations, and to date we have received zero response.

Mr. Chairman, this is entirely unacceptable. We need straightforward answers from DOE on how these cuts have impacted the Department's ability to do its job.

My opposition to this bill is common sense. We need to understand the Department of Energy's current capacity constraints before we assign the agency more work. Committee Democrats offered amendments during the subcommittee and full committee mark-ups of this bill to that effect, which were voted down by committee Republicans.

While I agree that it is important to understand the vulnerabilities in our electric supply chain, we must first understand the vulnerabilities and constraints of the agency that is tasked with completing the report.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the sponsor of this bill and the distinguished chairman of the Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 3638, the Electric Supply Chain Act.