

and parents of children, and bans targeted advertising to kids and teens.

This bill reflects months of bipartisan negotiation between myself and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman GUTHRIE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. CASTOR to arrive at a package of bills that will provide meaningful baseline protections for kids online without stopping further progress in the States. We do not preempt the States from taking further action.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe this bill provides a path to passage here in the House and also in the Senate.

I ask Members on a bipartisan basis to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for those data protections. That has been very important and a big part of the negotiations, and the gentleman has been a great advocate for that. I really appreciate it.

I mentioned Ms. Schmill and Ms. Molak when we first started. I should mention the staff and their hard work. They had countless hours meeting with different groups. Members were meeting with different groups and working hard on this, but the staff has, as well.

When I first took the chairmanship, very early in my chairmanship when my colleagues asked me to chair this committee, we sat down with a group of people to determine our priorities.

Number one was this bill. Number one was this effort. Number one was this issue. People talk a lot of times about how we have so many young staffers on Capitol Hill. They are, and they are also young parents. I have seen from both sides of the aisle, a couple of our staff members have different opinions on other issues but sit down and put that all aside when it comes to their children, America's children.

Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the hard, hard work. I really encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill tonight. I really encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill tonight because when we vote for this bill tonight, the House will put its imprint—and we have worked with the Senate, but the House will put its imprint to make sure that children are protected, parents are empowered, and Big Tech is held accountable.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7757, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas 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 pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SECURING COMMUNITY UPGRADES FOR A RESILIENT GRID ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7257) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require States to include supporting the physical security, cybersecurity, and resilience of local distribution systems in State energy security plans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7257

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 "Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid Act" or the "SECURE Grid Act".

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF THE SECURITY OF LOCAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN STATE ENERGY SECURITY PLANS.

Section 366 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) LOCAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.—The term 'local distribution system' means any energy infrastructure owned and operated by an electric utility at a voltage of 100 kilovolts or less.;"

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting " and suppliers of equipment for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity to," after "owners and operators of";

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) address potential hazards to each energy sector or system, including—

"(A) physical threats and vulnerabilities, including—

"(i) weather-related threats and vulnerabilities;

"(ii) physical attacks on local distribution systems and the bulk-power system; and

"(iii) supply chain risks for equipment for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity; and

"(B) cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities, including threats to, and vulnerabilities of, local distribution systems that may impact the bulk-power system.;" and

(B) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

"(5) provide a risk mitigation approach to enhance reliability and end-use resilience, including methods of responding to, mitigating, and recovering from potential hazards described in paragraph (3); and"

(4) in subsection (d)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) supplying equipment for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity; and"

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "A State is not eligible" and inserting the following:

"(1) SUBMISSION REQUIRED.—A State is not eligible";

(B) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively (and by moving the margins accordingly); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) STATE DETERMINATION.—A submission under paragraph (1) is not required to be approved by the Secretary.;"

(6) in subsection (f), by striking "may" and inserting "shall";

(7) in subsection (h), by inserting " local distribution system," after "electric utility"; and

(8) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) SUNSET.—This section shall expire on September 30, 2031."

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2030, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the efficacy of State energy security plans that includes—

(1) an evaluation of whether and how State energy security plans have improved the ability of States to identify, assess, and mitigate risks to energy infrastructure and supply chains and to plan for, respond to, and recover from events that disrupt energy supply;

(2) recommendations for—

(A) improving the ability of States described in paragraph (1); and

(B) actions the Secretary of Energy may take to improve coordination with States with respect to identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks to energy infrastructure and supply chains and planning for, responding to, and recovering from events that disrupt energy supply;

(3) information on Federal financial assistance made available to States under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) that was used to implement State energy security plans;

(4) information on activities carried out by States using such financial assistance;

(5) an analysis of the efficacy of the implementation of section 366 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326), as amended by this Act; and

(6) information on State use of assistance provided under section 366(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326(f)) (as amended by this Act), including any revisions of State energy security plans made by States resulting from assistance provided under such section 366(f).

(b) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in a form that may be made available to the public, except that any information protected from disclosure under section 366(h) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326(h)) shall be included in the report in an annex that shall not be publicly disclosed, consistent with such section.

(c) STATE ENERGY SECURITY PLAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "State energy security plan" has the meaning given such term in section 366(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6326(a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. 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. 7257.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, sponsored by my colleague and Energy Subcommittee chairman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. LATTA.

State energy security plans are an important tool for States to consider the vulnerabilities in their energy systems. The interconnected nature of our energy system requires constant information sharing and cohesive planning to assess, identify, and address potential threats.

During this historic period of exponential demand growth caused by next-generation industries, we need to be even more vigilant against adversaries that seek to undermine U.S. competitiveness.

The SECURE Grid Act is a timely bill that would enhance a State's ability to manage the security of their energy systems. H.R. 7257 will improve visibility into an evolving threat landscape while ensuring that experts in the energy field can help provide critical insights into complex engineering operations.

As technology improvements have the potential to positively transform our economy, these tools can also be used and exploited by bad actors. This bill will ensure that States remain on the cutting edge of innovation and security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1610

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, is a bipartisan bill that renews and enhances a State's ability to consider cyber and physical security protections to their energy systems, and it promotes collaboration between partners as they develop State energy security plans.

These State plans are a part of DOE's State Energy Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to help States with energy planning. It was reauthorized and updated in the bipartisan infrastructure law in 2021. As part of that reauthorization, plans must include energy emergency planning to secure the United States against physical and cyber threats.

The State energy security plans are an important tool that ensures States are prepared for the worst. The planning process brings together stakeholders and enables a level of coordination across Federal and State actors. This bill helps enhance the parts of those plans that guard against physical and cyber threats by ensuring that they encompass more of our energy system, local power lines, as well as facilities critical to ensuring the supply chain of energy infrastructure-related components.

Finally, the bill also bolsters a State's ability to obtain assistance from the Department of Energy, something I hope they will take advantage

of as they regularly update their energy security plans.

This bill also ensures that the Government Accountability Office will review how DOE and the States execute these programs, to ensure that Congress has the best information possible the next time the provision needs to be renewed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), chairman of the Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky, the chair of the full committee, for recognizing me today.

I rise in support of H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, which I sponsored with the gentlewoman from California's Seventh Congressional District.

State energy security plans, or SESP, provide States with an opportunity to identify threats and vulnerabilities in their respective energy networks. This collaborative process ensures that States can stay on the cutting edge of an evolving threat landscape.

While the initial exercise of SESP has meaningfully assisted States in managing their energy systems, there is room for improvement to enhance visibility and threat detection and to holistically consider disparate vulnerabilities across the sector.

The SECURE Grid Act achieves this goal by ensuring States incorporate security and resilience of distribution networks. Distribution networks bring wholesale power directly to homes and businesses to keep the lights on and keep our businesses up and running. Any threat to the distribution system is a threat to our communities.

Importantly, the legislation also brings industry experts to the table during the development of SESP to ensure State governments are equipped with the resources and operational understanding of the complex infrastructure.

In addition, the bill affirms the important leadership role of State governments to protect their energy systems while fostering collaborative partnerships with Federal counterparts.

Given the States' authority and understanding of their own unique energy needs, it is imperative that they are empowered to develop their own plans while working collaboratively with Federal partners.

This legislation comes at a timely moment in our Nation's history. Throughout the 119th Congress, the Energy Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has held several hearings with experts and administration officials to examine the state of our Nation's energy systems.

Each day, it becomes ever more apparent that our reliance on energy is growing because of AI advancements,

reshoring of manufacturing facilities, and general economy-wide electrification.

Families across the country can be burdened by high energy costs, and we know that there is nothing more expensive than a blackout.

We also know that adversarial nations and nefarious actors are actively seeking out any vulnerability in our interconnected energy infrastructure to sow chaos and cause harm to everyday Americans.

To combat these efforts, the legislation requires proactive information sharing, constant vigilance, and clear visibility into the widening threat landscape. The SECURE Grid Act ensures that State energy offices and their respective Governors are able to put processes in place to detect, mitigate, and respond to potential attacks targeting critical infrastructure.

The everyday lives of families and businesses are wholly reliant on a secure, reliable, and affordable energy system.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons stated, it is important that the House pass H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from California's Seventh District for her help on this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say briefly that I think this is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I agree that this is a very important bill. We have an interconnected grid, and we have to make sure that all States are ensuring that it is secure.

I appreciate my friend from Ohio for bringing this before his subcommittee and the full committee, and I appreciate his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7257, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7257, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7258) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: