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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

**RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY
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Dear Colleague:

I am writing to officially announce that in the 116th Congress, I will be running for the Chairmanship of the Energy Subcommittee; where I have served as Ranking Member for the past eight years.

Friends, we have worked diligently in the Energy Subcommittee throughout the last four Congresses to hold the line on behalf of American families against narrow-minded, industry-friendly, backwards-looking Republican policies. I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have worked with me to defend our core Democratic principles of protecting consumers, addressing climate change, and investing in America's aging infrastructure and energy workforce in the face of Republican intransigence. Despite being in the minority, we have stood up for families across our nation in the face of Republican policies that would destroy the environment, rollback safety regulations, and severely harm American consumers.

As we approach the 116th Congress — with a Democratic majority in the House, a Republican majority in the Senate, and a Republican Administration — it is even more vital that we stand firm in defending our core values and speaking out against policies that would harm America's most vulnerable. I have spent my entire life fighting for those whose voices are often left unheard including women, low-income communities, and communities of color. As the Chairman of such a critical subcommittee, I intend to continue to stand up for the underserved and underrepresented populations who need our support and protection, especially in a time of so much anxiety and uncertainty.

As Chairman, one of my top priorities will include working on an infrastructure package for modernizing the electric grid and making it more resilient, as well as replacing aging natural gas pipelines and lead pipelines, which have been the cause of contaminated water in schools, homes, and businesses across the nation. Additionally, I will continue to push workforce development issues in order to ensure that we have a skilled labor force capable of addressing the country's energy needs, both now and in the future. I strongly believe that the 21st century energy workforce should be representative of the nation as a whole and should include women, minorities, and veterans, while also providing additional career opportunities to individuals from low-income communities.

Another one of my top priorities will be highlighting the economic benefits — as well as the positive national security implications — of addressing the dire issue of climate change. I believe that promoting and deploying American ingenuity and innovation in advanced clean energy technologies will provide a tremendous opportunity to address climate change in a real and meaningful way, while also boosting the economy through exporting these technologies all around the world. Additionally, the deployment of clean energy technologies, as well as the expansion of microgrids, distributed energy, and electric vehicles can help create the Smart Cities of the Future, while also helping to ensure access to sustainable energy for rural communities.

Finally, I believe that it is high time for Congress to start fulfilling its Constitutional duty of providing oversight of the executive branch. Instead of fecklessly sitting on the sidelines while members of the Trump Administration enrich themselves, big corporations, and the wealthiest one percent at the expense of the American people, I intend to hold public officials accountable at agencies that fall under the jurisdiction of the Energy Subcommittee.

Specifically, I want to scrutinize the rollback of regulations protecting public health and the environment under this Administration, while also looking into the delay of energy efficiency standards designed to save consumers money and conserve energy. I also want to reestablish a focus on science and scientific evidence in the debate over developing public health regulations. Additionally, it is imperative that the Subcommittee provides oversight to ensure that agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), remain independent and unbiased and are not swayed by undue political pressure.

If elected to serve as Chairman, I pledge to continue to fight for the benefits and rights of all and to resist Republican attempts to place the interests of industry above the interests of the American people. I respectfully ask for your support in my quest to serve as Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee as we carry on our work on behalf of all families.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to serving you all.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush

Member of Congress