

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Full Committee Vote on H.R. 5865, H.R. 5859, H.R. 4273, H.R. 5892,**  
**H. Con. Res. 127, and Semi-Annual Committee Activity Report**  
**June 19-20, 2012**  
*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

We have a lot on the docket this week, and for that, I want to begin by thanking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their continued efforts to develop sensible, bipartisan solutions that can move through this committee and to the House floor.

The five measures we will vote on tomorrow are examples of the kind of legislating we do best – cutting red tape, promoting American energy, making government work smarter with fewer burdens, protecting the ingenuity of the Internet, and doing all of these things by reaching across the aisle to find common ground.

We'll also vote tomorrow on our Semi-Annual Committee Activity Report, which chronicles all that we have accomplished together from the start of the 112th Congress through the end of last month. We have had our fair share of differences, but everyone on this committee has worked hard. Everyone has shown up, participated in hearings, contributed to our policy dialogue, engaged in the legislative process through both subcommittee and full committee markups, and through all of that, everyone has left a mark on this committee and all that we have produced.

I'd like to say just a brief word on each of the measures we are scheduled to consider. H.R. 5865, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act, recognizes the importance of the American manufacturing sector in our economic recovery and continued international competitiveness. By listening to public- and private-sector experts, this bill will help us to eliminate red tape, streamline government processes, and ultimately make the United States a more competitive place to locate or expand manufacturing. I thank Representatives Kinzinger and Lipinski for partnering to introduce this legislation.

H.R. 5859 was introduced by Representatives Gregg Harper and Bill Owens to strike an obsolete reporting requirement currently imposed on both NHTSA and auto dealers. Getting good information into the hands of consumers is an important goal – but it's equally important to recognize when the information is no longer useful, and simply adding extra paperwork. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for recognizing that we can and should cut back on unnecessary government mandates.

The next bill we'll consider is H.R. 4273, a bill championed by Representatives Pete Olson, Mike Doyle, and many others on this committee who have seen firsthand the challenges that occur when our power companies face conflicting obligations from DOE and the EPA. This bill resolves those conflicts, making sure we're able to keep the lights on without penalizing the power companies.

We'll also take up H.R. 5892, a bill written by Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Diana DeGette to spur the development of new hydropower projects around the country. Hydropower is an important component of our all-of-the-above energy strategy – it creates jobs and helps power our homes and businesses, and I applaud the effort to cut through the red tape in order to get more of these projects up and running.

Finally, we'll vote on House Concurrent Resolution 127, a bill introduced by Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee Chairman Bono Mack and cosponsored by members on both sides of the aisle, including myself, Ranking Member Waxman, Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo. The resolution expresses the Sense of Congress that the Internet should remain free from international regulation, and that the U.S. should continue our commitment to the multi-stakeholder model of governance.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for their efforts – on the five bills before us today, and the many hours they have committed to the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee in the 112th Congress, and in the last six months in particular. Our work is not done yet, but I am proud of what we have accomplished so far and I look forward to approval of these bills and much more to come.

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