



Enhancing the DOE's Energy Security and Emergency Response Authorities

Congress must act to provide the Department of Energy (DOE) with the tools it needs to address emerging threats to the physical and cybersecurity of the nation's energy infrastructure.

WHY THESE BILLS MATTER:

- As the sector-specific agency for energy, DOE is required to coordinate with multiple federal and state agencies and collaborate with energy infrastructure owners and operators on a continual basis.
- DOE's statutory authorities must be modernized to keep pace with rapidly emerging threats and to position the department to fulfill its mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

H.R. 5174, Energy Emergency Leadership Act, would:

- Update the Department of Energy Organization Act to include energy emergency and energy security functions which the secretary shall assign to an assistant secretary;
- Provide that these functions include responsibilities with respect to infrastructure, cybersecurity, emerging threats, supply and emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration; and,
- Provide that these functions also include the provision of technical assistance, and response capabilities with respect to energy security threats, risks, and incidents to state, local, and tribal governments and the energy sector.

H.R. 5175, Pipeline and LNG Facility Cybersecurity Preparedness Act, would:

- Require the secretary to carry out a program to coordinate federal agencies, states, and the energy sector to ensure the security, resiliency, and survivability of natural gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, and liquefied natural gas facilities;
- Authorize DOE to coordinate response and recovery to physical and cyber incidents impacting the energy sector and develop advanced cybersecurity applications and technologies; and,
- Allow DOE to perform pilot demonstration projects and develop workforce development curricula relating to physical and cybersecurity to help the energy sector evaluate, prioritize, and improve physical and cybersecurity capabilities.

H.R. 5239, Cyber Sense Act, would:

- Establish a voluntary DOE program that tests the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system; including products related to industrial control systems; and,
- Authorize DOE to provide technical assistance to electric utilities, product manufacturers, and other electricity sector stakeholders to help mitigate identified cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

H.R. 5240, Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act, would:

- Require DOE to establish a program to facilitate and encourage public-private partnerships to promote and advance physical and cybersecurity of electric utilities that have fewer available resources due to size or region;
- Allow DOE to coordinate with State regulators to study priorities, policies, procedures, and actions for enhancing the physical and cybersecurity of electric distribution system; and,
- Direct DOE to update a program designed to assist electric grid planners at utilities, government organizations and other entities with estimating interruption costs and benefits associated with infrastructure improvements.