

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup on H.R. 5865, H.R. 5959, H.R. 4273, H.R. 5892, H. Con. Res. 127, and the Semi-Annual Committee Activity Report
Full Committee
June 19, 2012

Today we mark up five bills and the Committee's semi-annual activity report. I am pleased that we have reached consensus on all five bills, and I expect they should be reported out of the Committee on a bipartisan basis.

Among the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade related bills we will be considering during this markup is H.R. 5865, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.

Our House colleague, Mr. Lipinski, has been working for some time to make American manufacturing a top priority. Mr. Kinzinger, an original cosponsor of Mr. Lipinski's bill, has joined those efforts. I applaud both of them for working across the aisle on this issue.

We are also considering H.R. 5859, a bill to repeal a 1972 requirement that requires auto dealers to provide consumers comparative insurance cost information for different makes and models of passenger motor vehicles.

Cars that are easily damaged are more likely to have higher insurance costs.

The purpose of the provision that H.R. 5859 would repeal is to give consumers a basis for comparing damage susceptibility. Unlike "crashworthiness," which deals with safety, damage susceptibility refers to the amount and cost of damage a vehicle sustains, particularly in lower speed impacts. The 1972 law intended, in part, to create a market incentive for manufacturers to produce cars which are more resistant to damage and less expensive to repair and service.

Questions have been raised about the utility of the insurance cost comparison data as currently presented by NHTSA. Few consumers even know to ask dealers for copies of the information, suggesting that current law is not working as intended.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you, Chairman Bono Mack, and Representative Harper for working with me and Ranking Member Butterfield. I understand that you will support the

Butterfield amendment so that we can report a bill that removes a burden from dealers but doesn't leave consumers in the dark.

We also have two energy related bills to consider. The first, H.R. 5892, is a bipartisan bill that will facilitate the development of new, environmentally responsible hydropower projects. It was introduced by Ms. McMorris-Rodgers and Ms. DeGette. This bill was developed through a cooperative process that has produced balanced, bipartisan legislation. The legislation is supported by both hydropower developers and environmentalists.

We are also considering H.R. 4273, a bill to shield utilities complying with a Department of Energy emergency order from any liability for noncompliance with any federal, state, or local environmental law or regulation resulting from actions taken to comply with the DOE order.

I opposed the bill in its original form, but will be able to accept the revised version brought before the Committee. I want to commend Mr. Doyle and Mr. Green for their commitment to this issue and Mr. Dingell for developing a key compromise when discussions seemed at a dead end. And I want to thank Chairman Upton and Mr. Olson for working with us to develop a solution that we can all accept.

The bipartisan manager's amendment will include several important improvements to the bill. It includes language requiring DOE to narrowly tailor its emergency orders and preserves a meaningful role for environmental regulators in minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

The Committee will also consider H. Con. Res. 127, a bipartisan resolution introduced by Chair Bono Mack and cosponsored by Chairman Upton, myself, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Eshoo. This resolution confirms that there is no daylight between Democrats, Republicans, and the Administration in our support for the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance and a global open Internet. I urge its adoption.

Thank you.