

**STATEMENT ON H.R. 2850**  
**RANKING MEMBER EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**  
House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
*Full Committee Business Meeting on the Issuance of Subpoenas to the United States  
Environmental Protection Agency*  
&  
*Markup of H.R. 2850, the “EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act”*

August 1, 2013

Mr. Chairman, I will be relatively brief in my remarks about H.R. 2850, because there really is not much to say about it. It unfortunately is another example of this Committee Majority doing political messaging instead of legislating. If the Majority were really interested in legislating on the issue ostensibly being addressed by this bill, they would have had meaningful subcommittee hearings to examine the potential impact on the congressionally mandated study that this bill could have. They would have given EPA time to assess that impact and provide input to the subcommittee of jurisdiction. They would not have skipped subcommittee and instead rushed this bill to a full committee markup one day before the August recess.

I have to conclude that this bill is not a serious bill. It, coupled with the ill-advised move at today’s business meeting to push for subpoenas against EPA as well as potentially *any non-governmental custodians* of the data that the Chairman is seeking, is consistent with the Majority’s ongoing attempts across the House of Representatives to discredit EPA’s scientific work and to undermine the ability of the new EPA Administrator to do her job.

I understand that Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA) may offer an amendment today to this bill, and I will support that amendment. But I want to be clear—I do not support this bill and will not vote for it. We all need to remember that the study that this bill will impact has been well underway and the study’s plan reviewed by EPA’s Science Advisory Board. Members of Congress want the study to proceed unimpeded so that we can get its results in a timely fashion.

This bill is at best a piece of political messaging, and at worst, something that could seriously delay or undercut the congressionally mandated study. This bill will go nowhere in the Senate, but it should not even be coming out of this Committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.