

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Markup of *H.R. 5640: Electricity Storage Innovation Act*
July 7, 2016

Thank you Chairman Smith.

I strongly support efforts to advance research in electricity storage. Advanced battery technologies can improve the stability of our electric grid and greatly enhance our ability to efficiently use the wide range of clean energy resources that our country is lucky enough to have at our disposal.

Much like the research that is the focus of the Solar Fuels Innovation Act, this research could go a long way to addressing the critical issue of climate change, and so I am generally in support of this effort.

However, as with the Solar Fuels bill, we have skipped regular order in the consideration of this bill, and I think that the bill language has suffered as a result.

As DOE has pointed out, the repeated use of the term “basic research” in this bill is problematic, as there is a clear application in mind for this research: electricity storage. Mr. Takano has an amendment to address this, and I think its adoption would greatly improve the bill.

Nonetheless, I appreciate the Chairman’s efforts to focus attention on this important issue, and I want to thank him for introducing this legislation.

I yield back.