



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

**Statement by Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
on H.R. 34, the “Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019”**

Full Committee Markup of:

H.R. 34, the “Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019”

H.R. 2397, the “American Manufacturing Leadership Act”

H.R. 1237, the “COAST Research Act of 2019”

H.R. 1716, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”

*H.R. 1921, the “Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019
and H.R. 988, the “NEAR Act of 2019”*

May 1, 2019

The relationship between energy and water resources is complex. We use water to obtain fuel and to produce energy, and we use energy to extract, treat, and distribute water. It is easy to see how interdependent these resources really are.

This relationship also varies greatly from region to region.

In my home state of Texas, we have limited water resources that must be distributed appropriately to our large energy industry, agricultural communities, and rapidly growing population. Climate change also contributes greatly to this geographic disparity between our energy and water resources.

That is why I am pleased these issues received serious attention during the Energy Subcommittee’s hearing entitled “The Energy Water Nexus: Drier Watts and Cheaper Drops” in March.

I have been working for many years in Congress to address this issue, and I am excited that this bill has made its way through an Energy Subcommittee markup at the end of March, and today we will be one step closer to getting it to the floor.

The bill currently has endorsements from the Alliance to Save Energy, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Bipartisan Policy Center, AREVA Inc., Danfoss, the Smart Water Networks Forum, the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Texas Tech University, and Third Way. I’d like to thank my friend and co-sponsor Ranking Member Lucas, and the Energy Subcommittee Chairman Lamb and Ranking Member Weber for their leadership with respect to this bill.

The bill instructs the Department of Energy to incorporate the consideration of water use and treatment into all of its relevant research, development, and demonstration programs.

It also provides direction to coordinate with other relevant agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, States, and industry to ensure that we are giving this issue sufficient attention, resources, and guidance moving forward.

I am looking forward to moving through the House this important piece of legislation that helps to address these critical issues at the nexus of energy and water.