

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

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Environment
“A Solution in Search of a Problem: EPA’s Methane Regulations”
September 15, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the witnesses for being here today.

I am disappointed, but not surprised, that the Majority has decided to again hold a hearing attacking EPA regulations. Contrary to the hearing title, EPA’s new methane regulations are a solution to a very real problem, and a positive step forward to addressing greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite the familiar criticisms of EPA actions, the American people have been clear in their support for these regulations. In June, the American Lung Association released polling data which showed that 60 percent of American favor EPA’s methane regulations. The President of the American Lung Association, Harlod Wimmer, said, “The new methane standards mark an important step in the fight against climate change and will also cut toxic air pollutants that threaten the health of Americans.”

As I have said before, the Environmental Protection Agency works hard to protect the public health and the environment, and it is clear that these regulations are simply a result of their efforts to fulfill that mission. We must work with EPA, not against them, if we want to achieve strong environmental regulations that improve the health of both the planet and the economy.

Thank you, I yield back.