

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

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Environment
“Impact of EPA’s Clean Power Plan on States”
May 26, 2016

Thank you Chairman Bridenstine. I will be brief in my opening remarks since this hearing is simply one more in a series of hearings that the Majority has already held on this same topic, often inviting back the same witnesses to testify again, as is the case with one of today’s witnesses. As a result, I sincerely doubt that we will hear anything new this morning.

Despite the doomsday rhetoric that will likely be employed by some on the Majority side, the basic facts are clear. Implementing the EPA’s Clean Power Plan will help protect the environment, enhance the public’s health and save lives. Power plants account for roughly one-third of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and the Clean Power Plan will cut those emissions considerably. A plan which will improve public health, save billions of dollars in health care-related costs, reduce premature deaths, asthma attacks, missed school and work days, and will address the global threat of climate change is not just good policy, it is common sense.

Unfortunately, those who *do not* believe in climate change are quick to dismiss these benefits as unnecessary, too costly, or irrelevant. Instead of accepting the scientific reality that our climate is changing and taking action to address that challenge, they too often have decided to attack the scientists whose work has led to our knowledge of climate change and its impacts, as well as the environmental organizations that have sought to exercise their constitutional rights to focus public attention on these issues.

Mr. Chairman, climate change is real. It is impacting our environment, our economy, our national security, and the health of our citizens. I hope that in the coming months, this Committee will spend less time recycling the same tired rhetoric we are likely to hear at today’s hearing, and instead spend more time on serious hearings that take a serious look at climate change and its impacts on this nation.

Thank you, and I yield back.