

Committee on Ways and Means Member Day Hearing
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
10:00 AM

Statement for the Record

- Thank you, Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal, for the opportunity to speak in support of my bill, the POWER Act. This bill will establish a tax credit for Americans who have been affected by natural disasters to purchase an emergency generator.
- As a native Houstonian, I'm all too familiar with hurricanes and the devastating impact they can have on cities and families. I also know the life-saving impact that generators can have during these tragic times.
- Natural disasters, such as tornadoes, fires, hurricanes, and blizzards, are an unfortunate part of life in America, and each state encounters its own unique type of natural disaster.
- Californians endure wildfires, as we have tragically recently witnessed. Gulf State residents, including those in my home state of Texas, endure hurricanes. Northeasterners endure debilitating blizzards.
- As a real-time example, in North Carolina, Americans are ***still*** waiting in long lines in the cold for propane tanks and heaters to stay warm after their community was destroyed by Hurricane Helene months ago.
- Access to a generator can help all Americans weather the storm, no matter which storm they face.
- Generators help families keep the lights on, keep medication in refrigerators cold, and keep the house warm when they need it most.
- Americans need help when their electricity goes out.

- Americans need help purchasing life-saving emergency generators.
-

- That's why my bill, the POWER Act, is necessary.
- The POWER Act will give Americans in disaster-afflicted communities a tax credit of up to \$500 to purchase an emergency generator that will be valid for only two years after enactment.
- Even better, the POWER Act allows this tax credit to be used only for generators made right here in the United States.
- Under the POWER Act, Americans will be safer, and American companies will be stronger.
- One way this tax credit could be paid for is by instituting a 50% tax on remittances from illegal aliens. The Texas Public Policy Foundation estimates that a remittance tax could generate around **\$23 billion**, triple what the Power Act would cost.
- Not only is this issue important to me, my friends and neighbors in Texas, and the American people, but it's also important to President Trump.
- President Trump posted on Truth Social about this very issue on October 11, 2024.
- **Motion to Submit:** Chairman Smith, I'd like to submit to the record President Trump's October 11, 2024, Truth Social post concerning a tax credit for generators.
- While I'm here, I'd also like to strongly advocate for the 45-Q tax credit that allows oil and gas companies to invest in carbon capture and sequestration.
- 45Q is one of the best tax credits the federal government provides that allows energy companies to innovate for the future.

- For example, due in large part to 45-Q, the energy industry has reduced America's carbon footprint immensely.
- But more importantly, they can utilize the captured carbon for what's known as "Enhanced Oil Recovery," which has resulted in the highest oil recovery efficiency in over 100 years.
- To put it another way, 45-Q is responsible for one of the largest innovative technologies in the oil and gas industry since hydraulic fracturing was invented.
- I would like to thank the Ways and Means Committee for giving me the opportunity to speak about these vital issues for Americans. I urge you to advance the POWER Act and retain 45-Q this Congress as we work to extend President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- I yield back my time.