Opening remarks
Business Meeting on Nomination of Douglas Weaver to NRC
March 4, 2026

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Weaver is being renominated to serve a full term as Commissioner of the NRC. I supported his nomination last time. He possessed the requisite expertise and experience, including time spent at the NRC, and firmly committed to protecting nuclear safety and the independence of the agency.

As Congress and nuclear industry understand—and as the White House and DOE better understand sooner rather than later—America's nuclear leadership rests on public confidence in nuclear safety, and therefore on an independent regulator.

NRC is working to right its ship through the storm of political interference it has weathered in the last year. Some of these winds seem to be abating—we are back to a full Commission, and some of the most vocal DOGE-y boys have slunk into the background. But we do not yet see the sun through the clouds. White House and DOE infiltrators continue to burrow in at NRC. DOE has doubled down on bringing online nascent nuclear designs with inexperienced developers on unprecedented timelines and weakened environmental requirements, with the explicit aim of fast-tracking these companies' future NRC licenses. And NRC is in the throes of implementing the reorganization and comprehensive regulatory review mandated by Trump's executive orders, which will be decisive for the agency's staff and its credibility.

I have met with now-Chairman Ho Nieh ("nee"), who has promised that NRC will maintain its independence and commitment to safety under his leadership. I appreciate his hands-on approach to managing the mischief at the agency and I hope that his efforts succeed.

I do not see a reason at this time to alter my support for Mr. Weaver's renomination—but I will continue to keep a close watch on conditions at the agency. I hope that Mr. Weaver will maintain his non-negotiable posture on NRC's independence and its safety mission. America's burgeoning nuclear industry depends upon it.