

U.S. Representative Larry Bucshon, M.D. (R-IN-8) hosted a Discussion at OurEnergyPolicy.org (OEP) on his bill, the Electricity Reliability and Fuel Security Act ([H.R. 5270](https://www.congress.gov/bills/115/5270)). Below is a summary of the perspectives offered by OEP's diverse community of energy professionals.

“The national and economic security of the nation depends on the availability of reliable and affordable electricity. This legislation will continue to ensure that Americans will have secure electricity when they need it most.” - Representative Larry Bucshon, M.D.

Carbon Capture Technology	<p>Whether more funding goes to clean coal depends on what you mean by clean coal. If you mean carbon capture, then sure! It would be the fastest way to rapidly cut emissions out of huge swathes of our electricity sector. But carbon capture technology would also apply to natural gas, and costs and benefits should be compared against alternative means of supplying reliable power, including renewables+storage, and the environmental costs of coal mining should be considered as well.</p> <p>- Brent Nelson, Associate Prof. of Mechanical Engineering, N. Arizona University, April 16, 2018</p>
Grid Reliability	<p>“If we think the grid reliability is a significant problem for our economy or society, we should be worrying about downed power lines, which are responsible for virtually all of our outages. It’s clear that the most damaging grid failure, economically, in recent American history was Puerto Rico — no coal, and indeed no fuel shortages contributed to that crisis.”</p> <p>- Carl Pope, Former Executive Director, Sierra Club, April 16, 2018</p>
Climate Change	<p>“The excess CO2 produced by coal burning lasts in the atmosphere for hundreds to thousands of years, causing damage to all future generations. And note that these “external” costs are real and must be paid by increased taxes to pay for weather/flood/drought/fire disasters, higher insurance premiums, higher uninsured losses, higher food prices, more military spending, etc.”</p> <p>- Dan Miller, Managing Director, The Roda Group, April 16, 2018</p>
Government Subsidies	<p>“At moments of rapid technological instability, subsidies can make sense — Calvin Coolidge created the American aviation industry with the air mail subsidy. Congress tends to overuse them.”</p> <p>- Carl Pope, Former Executive Director, Sierra Club, April 16, 2018</p> <p>“The US should not prop up old technologies, costing ratepayers billions of dollars when there are a host of more reliable and cost effective choices.”</p> <p>- Scott Skar, President, The Stella Group, LTD, April 17, 2018</p>
Role of Markets	<p>“If policymakers do anything, it should be to encourage electricity markets to better reflect the different capabilities of different resources, including firm capacity, dispatchability, and availability (rather than raw MW and MWh). Policy should reflect SYSTEM NEEDS, not defined fuel sources.”</p> <p>- Brent Nelson, Associate Prof. of Mechanical Engineering, N. Arizona University, April 16, 2018</p> <p>“The markets have been the biggest driver in the retirement of these coal plants. They are not needed for reliability; our system is still substantially overbuilt, according to the grid operators. These plants are losing in the marketplace to gas, energy efficiency, and renewables. Believers in the wisdom of markets would likely struggle to support interventions to save uneconomic operations.”</p> <p>- Matt Cox, CEO, The Greenlink Group, April 16, 2018</p>