

EJM statement for Indian energy hearing

Tribes are already making important contribution to America's energy supply. Energy development can create economic opportunities for tribes, especially the potential for millions of megawatts of energy from wind, solar, geothermal and biomass in Indian country.

The second hearing of this subcommittee, held on April 1 last year, focused on the potential for economic improvement of tribes through energy development. In response a number of tribes have put together legislative principles or proposals.

I had hoped that we would be having a robust discussion of those proposals today. Instead the bill we have before us includes a few of those proposals but neglects large areas that must be addressed to advance energy self-determination legislation. The bill does advance the Republican agenda to undermine NEPA and close the courthouse door to legitimate lawsuits that the fossil fuel industry finds bothersome.