

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Adrian Smith (R-NE), Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
Committee on Science and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
*NIST Structure and Authorities, Its Role in Standards, and Federal Agency Coordination on  
Technical Standards*

March 23, 2010

Thank you, Chairman Wu, for calling today's hearing on the structure and authorities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Article one, section eight of the United States Constitution enumerates the power of Congress to "fix the Standard of Weights and Measures." For over one-hundred years, since its initial founding as the National Bureau of Standards, NIST has been congressionally authorized to fulfill this mission, and is trusted domestically and internationally as an unbiased arbiter of scientific measurement.

As we are continually reminded, scientific innovation is never-ending, and the infrastructure needed to ensure continued advancement evolves likewise. In light of this, from time to time, NIST has seen fit to reorganize itself to better meet the needs of the scientific and commercial communities.

This evolution is entirely appropriate, so long as NIST remains within its authorization and is better able to meet its mission. I am looking forward to hearing from our witnesses on how this reauthorization fits those parameters.

With that said, in the interest of hearing from our witnesses, I will simply say thank you to our distinguished panelists and yield back the balance of my time.