

**Opening Statement**  
**Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC), Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment  
MARKUP

*HR 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009*

*HR 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009*

*HR 3029, to establish an RD&D program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines used in combined cycle power generation systems*

*HR 3247, to establish a social and behavioral sciences research program at DOE*

July 21, 2009

Good morning and thank you for holding this markup, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking forward to discussing and improving the four pieces of legislation before us today.

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009 will reauthorize the Vehicle Technologies Program at DOE. The bill realigns the program to approach a wide variety of critical transportation technology research areas with the goal of reducing petroleum use and the related emissions. A balanced and robust research program is necessary to expand our mobility options, increase our national security, and establish the United States as a world leader in auto and truck design and manufacturing and transportation fuel development.

The second bill we'll address today, is the Wind Energy Research and Development Act. As the Department of Energy and the American Wind Energy Association have made clear, expanding our wind power generating capacity will require significant improvement in turbine technologies, forecasting capabilities, energy storage, and the transmission grid. Strengthening the research effort in wind energy will help us move away from polluting fossil fuel energy while creating jobs in wind energy design, manufacturing, and operation.

H.R. 3029 will implement a short-term research, development, and demonstration program at DOE to push gas turbine combined cycle generating systems to 65% efficiency. Natural gas is a clean burning fuel produced right here in the United States and is the fastest growing source of new electricity capacity. Increasing turbine efficiency will reduce fuel usage and corresponding emissions, optimize our use of this limited resource, and lower electricity costs.

Finally, H.R. 3247 establishes a social and behavioral sciences research program at the Department of Energy. This research is intended to help us better understand the way individual decisions impact energy markets and energy technology development. I'm aware of the National Science Foundation's work in this area, and I understand the Chairman's desire to see this work become an emphasis at the DOE. I look forward to hearing how that cross-pollination might work.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with you on this legislation, Mr. Chairman.