



For Immediate Release
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**Statement of Energy Subcommittee Chairman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)
Hearing on “Green Buildings: An Evaluation of Energy Savings Performance Contracts”**

Chairman Lummis: Improving energy efficiency can be a commonsense, market-oriented solution to lower energy bills. Just as consumers may choose to purchase more energy efficient vehicles to save on fuel costs, and just as homeowners install insulation to reduce electric bills, the Federal government should take similar steps when they make economic sense. Energy Savings Performance Contracts, or ESPCs, are a mechanism to do just that.

ESPCs provide for a public-private partnership to increase the energy efficiency of federally owned facilities. In doing so, the private sector assumes the upfront costs, while sharing the rewards of reduced energy costs with American taxpayers. The Federal government owns or leases almost 400,000 buildings, so even minor improvements to individual facilities can accumulate into major savings.

However, as with all government initiatives, it is important that ESPCs are implemented with maximum effectiveness. For example, ESPC projects must be monitored for quality control and energy savings must be verified. Federal agencies should look at the overall impact of a project, not solely at the dollar value attached to it. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses today and exploring opportunities and challenges associated with the use of ESPCs. It is important to note that, while ESPCs represent a mutually, beneficial, market-based approach to reducing energy costs, they contrast sharply with the heavy-handed regulatory onslaught that President Obama announced on Tuesday.

The President is again pushing an extremist environmental agenda, the costs of which will fall most harshly on hard-working American families. His approach consists of worn policies already rejected by Congress in a bipartisan fashion, and doubles down on his preferred approach of expensive energy mandates, job-killing regulations, and hidden energy taxes.

These increased energy costs and burdensome regulations will throttle our economy, especially for my state of Wyoming, the nation’s leading energy producer. Even more concerning are the direct consequences of higher energy costs on American households, living paycheck to paycheck. As household energy costs soar, moms and dads will be left grasping as their economic security slips away. They will have less for their children’s college fund. They will have less for an emergency, such as an unexpected illness or job loss. They will have less to provide care for their aging parents. They will have less for day-to-day expenses, all so the President can have more regulation, more mandates, and more taxes.

President Obama’s policies stand in stark contrast to House Republicans’ “all of the above” energy strategy. This strategy takes full advantage of America’s abundant domestic energy supply, including coal, oil, nuclear, natural gas and energy efficiency, as we will discuss here today.

Thank you for the time and I yield back.