

OPENING STATEMENT

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall (R-TX), Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Full Committee Markup

H.R. 2484, the *Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2011*

July 28, 2011

I want to welcome everyone here today for the markup of H.R. 2484, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2011.

Harmful algal blooms, or HABs, are a significant summertime problem that affects rivers, lakes, and tidal areas in almost every state. In addition to damaging ecosystems, harmful algae negatively impacts local economies that depend on healthy water for fishing, recreation and tourism.

The bill before us today attacks this problem at its core: by strengthening the science necessary to understand HABs and advancing technological solutions to better prevent and respond to outbreaks when they occur.

I want to commend Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Harris on his effort to craft focused bipartisan legislation to reauthorize this small but important program. The product before us is a good bill that incorporates input from Members on both sides of the aisle as well as the Administration. I urge Members to support it.

I yield back any remaining time.