

Opening Statement
The Honorable Bob Inglis (SC-4), Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment

MARKUP

Committee Print: Department of Energy

- *Title I: Department of Energy Office of Science Authorization Act of 2010*
- *Title II: ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2010*
- *Title III: Energy Innovation Hubs Authorization Act of 2010*

March 25, 2009

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this markup as we get ready to reauthorize the *America COMPETES Act*. Today, we'll look at three components of that effort at the Department of Energy: the Office of Science, ARPA-E, and the new Energy Innovation Hubs initiative.

The Office of Science at DOE has a long history of transformative, foundational research work that underpins our understanding of nature and opens the door to major advancements in energy technologies and national security. In support of this mission, this committee laid out a doubling track for the Office of Science in the 2007 authorization of *America COMPETES*. As we again address this critical Office, I hope to raise a few points of concern.

First, it seems we are encouraging the Office of Science to move away from its foundational research focus and towards the development of marketable technologies. I am concerned that an emphasis on technology development will overrun and diminish the critical basic discovery science mission.

Second, this Committee Print places considerable emphasis on climate observations and modeling. While this work will support strong energy policy decisions, it has little bearing on the technological competitiveness of the United States and seems misplaced in this *COMPETES* legislation.

Next we will turn to ARPA-E. I am a big believer in this new program, and the flexible, aggressive approach it takes to developing market-ready transformative technologies. The early success of ARPA-E grant solicitations was very encouraging and I can appreciate the enthusiasm behind the ten year authorization for this program as included in the language. At the same time, I think it is important that we give the program more time to show its successes and limitations and hesitate to offer it such a lengthy authorization.

Finally, this language includes Energy Innovation Hubs. This is a new initiative recommended by Secretary Chu and is intended to create breakthroughs in particularly troublesome areas of energy technology. I hope to ask a few clarifying questions about this section during the hearing. Before we begin, I want to raise my concern that this program may duplicate ongoing work at DOE.

Mr. Chairman, as I look at the authorization levels in this bill, I can't help but think that we're letting our enthusiasm for these programs get the better of us. While robust funding for critical

work at the Department of Energy is necessary and a long-term commitment of this subcommittee, now is the time to exercise restraint and fiscal responsibility.

Again, I want to thank you for holding this markup, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to working with you on this legislation.