

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HEARING**

**H.R. 364, Establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)**

April 26, 2007

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis  
(SC-4)**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E).

Mr. Chairman, we share the same vision: America serving the world and succeeding as the leading technological innovator.

We share the same goal: creating incentives for technological advancement.

We share some of the same strategies and tactics toward the attainment of the goal and the fulfillment of the vision.

I'm not opposed to creating a federal agency within the Department of Energy to mimic the risk-embracing and entrepreneurial qualities of the DARPA program. It is possible that the ARPA-E research could eventually offer a big payoff in the commercial energy market. At the same time, I already see real payoffs coming from existing DOE research, especially hydrogen, nuclear, wind, and solar programs. I'm concerned that the ARPA-E fund will divert funds away from these existing programs and jeopardize the advances we're already seeing in these areas. I hope that we can find a way to ensure that this doesn't happen.

Unlike DARPA, DOE doesn't have the "contracting power" to require private companies and utilities to use the technologies ARPA-E might produce. We're still not sure how best to clear the hurdle from basic, applied research in our national labs to applying that research in the commercial market. Is it reasonable to think that, without the ability to mandate applications, the higher risk ARPA-E programs would be able to conquer that tech transfer challenge?

Hopefully, these questions will be addressed in this hearing today and in refinements to the bill.

In any event we can all agree that science and technology hold some of the solutions to the most pressing problems we face. Our dependence on fossil fuels from the most unstable regions in the world make us a nation at risk. We must break through to alternative sources of energy, and I hope that ARPA-E can be part of that process.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to discussing these questions with you and with the panel.