

Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis (R-SC)
Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
A National Water Initiative: Coordinating and Improving Federal Research on Water

July 23, 2008

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

Water is one of the ingredients of life and an issue this Committee takes seriously. This is the second hearing we have held in the subcommittee on water resources research. We have also held a full committee hearing on the energy-water nexus. I don't think there is a member on this committee whose district has not been affected by water, either too much of it, or not enough.

I commend the Chairman for his draft legislation we will be discussing today. I believe it is the first of many steps that have been recommended to us by leading scientists, industry, academia and state and local governments. Coordinated research is a necessary part to responding to our nation's water problems.

However, I would caution that we take care not to repeat the mistakes of the Executive Branch by approaching water legislation in the same ad hoc manner that agencies have approached water research. Last week at our full committee mark-up, we passed two water research related bills out of committee. I would hope that the Chairman's legislation does not undermine what we have done in those two bills, but instead enhances their effect.

I look forward hearing from our distinguished witnesses, and I yield back the remainder of my time.