

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

HEARING

Investigating the Nature of Matter, Energy, Space, and Time

October 1, 2009

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

Good morning and thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

This subcommittee has held several hearings over the last few months examining the diverse mission of DOE's Office of Science. We've heard about their research efforts in energy, vehicle technologies, and biological sciences. Today we turn to perhaps the most fundamental research activities in all of science: investigating the building blocks of energy and matter.

So we're here to learn at the Einstein level and I feel somewhat unprepared for class.

I think I know this much, though: In the Manhattan Project we found a way to harness the energy of atoms for weaponry of massive strength. Fifty years later, we're searching for the most basic understanding of the nature of the universe.

Out of this research, we gain an understanding of electricity, communication technology, x-rays, and other conveniences. We also delve into the fundamental nature of matter, energy, space and time, inspiring our insatiable human curiosity to answer large metaphysical questions about "why" and "how".

Current lines of investigation in this field are exciting. We're simultaneously exploring the edges of the universe, matter we cannot directly observe, and a particle that lends mass to everything around us. While this research will give us some interesting answers, it will certainly inspire many more questions. And that's what science is all about.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panelists about this fascinating course of research. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.