

# **STEM EDUCATION HEARING**

Thursday, February 4, 2010

## **Opening Statement**

Alan B. Mollohan, Chairman

Good morning; the hearing is called to order. Welcome to the second hearing of the Commerce, Justice, Science subcommittee on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. In testimony yesterday we heard about two examples of STEM education activities and today we will hear two more. We also learned that developmental precursors don't always resemble the skill to which they are leading and how the environment around schools can be effectively used in inquiry-based education. Testimony helped us become aware of the challenges to transforming science education and including student activities such as devising original experiments, observing the natural world, using math, and reasoning with data.

Today, we will hear from witnesses recommended to us by NSF and NOAA as outstanding recipients of federal education funding provided through our appropriations. These witnesses are Mr. Craig Strang from the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley and Dr. Julie Luft of Arizona State University. Mr. Strang has pioneered the development of materials that help enable inquiry in STEM education. Dr. Luft has been both a middle and high school science teacher and an educator of secondary school science teachers. Dr. Luft is currently the Director of Research for the National Science Teachers Association. Thank you both for coming.

Following the opening statement of Ranking Member Wolf, we will ask each of you to provide a summary of your written testimony, which will be included in the hearing record, and then we will go to questions from subcommittee members.