

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

The Honorable Ed Pastor  
Vice Chairman, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations

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Hearing on NNSA Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation's  
Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request  
March 10, 2010

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Good afternoon. We have before us today Steven Black, Chief Operating Officer for the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. He will be presenting the President's fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.

The President committed to an aggressive nonproliferation agenda in his first year in office. He pledged to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide in four years; accelerate the reduction of Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons stockpiles through a new agreement; and is seeking to update the agreement for Russia to dispose of its surplus weapons-grade plutonium.

The fiscal year 2011 request supports these commitments with a proposed \$2.7 billion, \$550 million above fiscal year 2010.

Securing vulnerable nuclear material is a laudable goal, a goal this Committee supports. However, the magnitude of the increase – 26% – raises concerns whether the increase can be effectively executed in a single year. Significant portions of the program depend on finalizing agreements with other nations, something that is notoriously difficult to firmly nail down in time.

There may be justification to fund activities that are uncertain, but over-promising on execution risks skepticism toward this request and planned future funding increases. The program has made significant progress in reducing carryover in the last several years; we will continue to expect you to meet your commitments to the public. We are interested in hearing the details on how you believe you can execute this funding and your defense of the choices made in the nonproliferation request.

Mr. Black, your full written testimony will be entered into the record. After the hearing, we may have some questions for you to answer for the record – and I ask that you have the responses, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee be delivered in final form to the Subcommittee no later than four weeks from today.

I also ask that if Members have additional questions they would like to submit for the record, that they please do so to this Subcommittee by 5:00 PM tomorrow.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Mr. Frelinghuysen, for any opening comments that he would like to make.