

OPENING STATEMENT

THE HONORABLE ED PASTOR
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Hearing on the 2011 Budget Request for
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy, and
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
March 17, 2010

Good morning. The Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development meets today to hear testimony on the fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Department of Energy's applied research and development programs in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, fossil energy, and the electricity delivery system.

America faces persistent challenges to its energy sector that continue to threaten our economy, national security, and environment. Our economy—from our citizens' cars to our military's planes—relies heavily on petroleum fuels, much of which is imported from overseas. Power prices have been rising for years, and our electricity supplies depend on energy sources that give off harmful emissions and on a congested and aging electric power grid.

Today we consider the budget request for applied R&D activities at the Department of Energy aimed at addressing these difficult challenges. We have before us the Undersecretary of Energy, Dr. Kristina Johnson, who oversees the Department's applied energy research and development offices. We especially look forward to your account of the measures you are taking to break down the stovepipe mentality at the Department in order to foster collaboration and cooperation across offices and programs.

We also have before us Assistant Secretary Kathy Zoi, to discuss the Administration's fiscal year 2011 request for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Assistant Secretary Zoi will discuss the Administration's work on technologies that can reduce our energy consumption, decrease our dependence on petroleum fuels, and provide clean, domestic, renewable energy.

Currently, most of our electricity comes from fossil energy sources, and James Markowsky, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, is here to discuss the Department's work on technologies that can provide cleaner, low-carbon electricity generation using our vast domestic resources of coal and natural gas.

Finally, Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, will address the Department's budget request for research and development activities that can squeeze more out of our existing resources and allow the expansion of clean energy generation by modernizing and securing the nation's electricity transmission and distribution system.

Welcome to you all; please keep your testimony today to no more than five minutes. 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—Secretary Johnson, I ask that you ensure the responses, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee, are delivered in final form no later than four weeks from today.

If Members have additional questions they would like to submit for the record, please provide them to the 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.