

Chairman Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Budget Hearing on the Department of Energy's
Applied Energy accounts
March 25, 2014
Opening Statement As Prepared

The hearing will come to order.

I'd like to welcome our witnesses, Dr. David Danielson, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Dr. Pete Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Pat Hoffman, Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and Christopher Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

But before we get started, I'd like to take a moment to say how much I'm looking forward to working with Ranking Member Kaptur and all the other members of the Subcommittee. I've been a member of this subcommittee for over 10 years, and I have great appreciation for the importance of the issues under its jurisdiction.

Your programs account for more than \$3.8 billion of the Department's budget request for fiscal year 2015. I must note that while the request is more balanced than last year, the two accounts – Nuclear and Fossil – which Congress increased last year received reductions. To the extent that the President is serious about an "all of the above" energy strategy, I would hope that this is the last year we see this imbalance in the request.

Not surprisingly, I know the work funded by Nuclear Energy the best, but I also know the importance that these programs hold not just for American industrial competitiveness, but also for the comfort, safety, and well-being of all of our constituents.

As Assistant Secretaries, you have both managerial and leadership roles for the people and programs under your responsibilities. I'm sure you'll agree that these can be distinct from each other, but both require a strong vision of your mandate and operation. Unfortunately, simply reading your budget requests does not give me much insight into the vision each of you has for your program. This is a question which I'll ask Secretary Moniz to cover for the Department overall, but I expect that you'll be able provide us with your answers today.

Given the number of opening statements which we have before we get to questions, I'll keep this short, and I'll ask that each of you do the same. Please ensure that the hearing record, questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to us no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. Members who have additional questions for the record will have until close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

With that, I'll turn to my Ranking Member, Ms. Kaptur, for her comments.