



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing – Department of Energy February 26, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

The hearing will come to order.

Secretary Moniz, it's good to see you again, and welcome back.

We have a lot to discuss today so I will keep my remarks brief.

The first thing we have to acknowledge is that the President's budget exceeds the Budget Control Act statutory caps for fiscal year 2016 by \$71 billion. Since this increase was offset by legislative proposals that cannot pass and savings gimmicks that do not actually save, it is unlikely that the Appropriations Committee will be funding at this level. So, while it was great to see some of the Department of Energy funding increases proposed, since they were not actually the result of making the tough choices needed in this fiscal environment, we cannot realistically use this request as a true measure of need or priorities.

Equally disappointing, is that even with the increases in your budget request, the budget funds Administration priorities at the expense of nuclear and fossil energy – accounts that can help secure our nation's energy security both now and in the future.

The hearings that we have scheduled to review the budget request for the Department of Energy, beginning with this one, need to shed some light on what is actually needed in fiscal year 2016 to ensure a secure and prosperous nation.

Secretary Moniz, at last year's hearing, I asked you to describe your vision for the Department. You highlighted the Department's role as "a science and technology powerhouse" and the importance of the national lab system to that role. Additionally, you discussed the Department's reorganization and how that reorganization would support the energy/science agenda, ensure nuclear security, and improve management and performance.

I look forward to discussing your vision further and learning more about the actions you have taken to create a stronger Department of Energy.

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 that you receive them.

Members who have additional questions for the record will have until the close of business tomorrow to provide them the subcommittee office.

With that, I will turn to my Ranking Member, Ms. Kaptur, for her opening statement.

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