



Chairman Mike Simpson

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

**FY 2016 Budget Hearing: Department of Energy's
Applied Energy accounts
March 17, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared**

The hearing will come to order.

I'd like to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Franklin Orr, Under Secretary for Science and Energy, Dr. David Danielson, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, John Kotek, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Pat Hoffman, Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and Christopher Smith, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

In 2012 the President unveiled an "all of the above" energy strategy that sought to develop every source of American-made energy. Over the years we have come to realize that this "all of the above" approach really means a prioritization of renewable energy research and development at the expense of the nuclear and fossil energy accounts. Together, your programs account for almost \$4.5 billion of the Department's budget request for fiscal year 2016. As in previous years, half of this request is for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

I agree that an "all of the above" approach should fund research in new energy sources but we also need to ensure we are efficiently and effectively using our existing sources. Last year, Fossil and Nuclear energy sources provided about 85 percent of all the electricity produced in this country. Just increasing the production efficiency by 1 percent of any fossil or nuclear fuel source would have a tremendous effect on net electricity generation. A true "all of the above" approach would not make these sources the lowest priorities of the Department of Energy.

Each of you has an important role in managing and developing the future of these diverse energy sources. I look forward to hearing how your vision supports a true "all of the above" approach and continues to make investments in our energy future.

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 the close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

With that, I'll turn to Ranking Member Kaptur for her opening statement.

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