



## **Chairman Mike Simpson**

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

**FY 2016 Budget Hearing - Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

**March 24, 2015**

**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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The hearing will come to order.

Today's hearing is on the budget of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We have before us Stephen Burns, the Chairman of the Commission and his fellow Commissioners, Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran. Thank you all for being here today – we look forward to your testimony.

Our government should not make policy based on energy sources that the market favors at any particular time. It is our job to address our energy needs strategically – and work to create an environment where all forms of energy can compete. A robust energy portfolio is the best path to a secure energy future. I believe that nuclear energy is a critical component of that portfolio.

The Commission plays an important role in ensuring nuclear energy's success. Nuclear energy must continue its strong safety record but regulations need to ensure safety without placing undue burden on the industry. We must move forward on long term waste storage. And – the Commission must be prepared to advance new and innovative nuclear technologies.

I look forward to your thoughts on all of these issues.

I would also ask the witnesses to 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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