



# **Chairman Mike Simpson**

---

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

**Hearing on the Department of Energy's  
Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request  
March 1, 2016  
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 President's budget proposes numerous spending gimmicks to avoid the discretionary budget caps established by the Bipartisan Budget Act. I think it is unlikely that any of these gimmicks can be enacted. While in some cases, that is fine, since the funding is proposed for Presidential initiatives of an administration in its final year; in other cases, important activities will be drastically curtailed and hundreds of jobs could be lost if this Committee does not budget for these funding needs.

Equally disappointing is that even with the \$747 million increase 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. And while the Mission Innovation initiative claims to advance all clean energy solutions, even the most casual review of the budget indicates that the new funding is intended almost entirely for EERE.

We will need to use the hearing process to conduct a careful review of this entire request so that we can construct a bill that provides a true "all of the above" strategy.

Secretary Moniz, I look forward to your testimony today and further discussion on all of these issues.

#####