



# **Chairman Mike Simpson**

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*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 2, 2016**

### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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The hearing will come to order.

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

This past summer the President announced "Mission Innovation", a pledge to double the investment into clean energy research and development over the next five years. Together, your programs' budgets represent the majority of where these increases would take place in order to meet the President's goal. An "all of the above" strategy would propose that all the programs within the "Mission Innovation" category would receive a 20 percent raise each year in order to attain the goal of doubling clean energy research and development in the pledged five year period. However, that's unfortunately not the case. In fact, the EERE budget receives a 50 percent increase when comparing funds in the "Mission Innovation" category to last year's level. This generous and unbalanced increase is proposed while the budget request reduces Nuclear's clean energy activities and drastically reduces total funding for Fossil. In looking at the overall request it's clear that "Mission Innovation" is another attempt by the Administration to provide massive increases to the EERE budget at the expense of other Applied Energy technologies.

A more balanced approach would fund emerging energy sources AND support the reliable energy sources that we count on today.

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 balanced approach and continues to make investments in our energy future.

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