

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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March 13, 2013

The Honorable Dr. Kathleen Hogan
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Hogan:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "American Energy Security and Innovation: An Assessment of Private-Sector Successes and Opportunities in Energy Efficient Technologies."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and then (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

Also included in the attachment are Member requests made during the hearing. The format of your responses to these requests should follow the same format as your responses to the additional questions for the record.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by mail by the close of business on Friday, March 27, 2013. Please also e-mail your responses to the Legislative Clerk in Word format at Nick.Abraham@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

cc: The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Attachment 1—Member Requests for the Record

During the hearing, Members asked you to provide information for the record. For your convenience, relevant excerpts from the hearing transcript regarding these requests are provided below.

The Honorable Lee Terry

On weatherization, you may have read some stories from my district where there were several million dollars issued for weatherization in the city, and it was something like 14 or 15 homes that were actually provided the services. But yet, the money is gone. And so weatherization, at least in our area, is not a program that is held in high esteem. It is an example of the waste and fraud.

So could you point out the internal DOE structure to oversee the weatherization program and to ensure that 80 percent of it, the dollars that are provided, aren't being used for administrative purposes?

Will you check for me and get back to me of what you have done on the Omaha situation with the waste and fraud in that program?

Attachment 2—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Ed Whitfield

1. Late last year, the Pay-TV and consumer electronics industries came together and agreed upon a voluntary Energy Conservation Agreement (“Pay-TV Agreement”). The agreement will result in the deployment of more energy efficient set-top boxes. The Pay-TV Agreement is already bringing tangible energy efficiency gains and promises significantly more.
 - a. Does the Department plan to move forward with its own proposed set-top box rulemaking, despite the execution of the Pay-TV Agreement? If so, when would the Department’s rule go into effect and when would energy efficiency gains begin to be realized?
 - b. Why has the Department been reluctant to follow the Administration’s preference for voluntary/market solutions that are already delivering savings?
 - c. What steps does the Department intend to take to work cooperatively with the signatories to the Pay-TV Agreement to develop energy efficiency savings and promote innovation outside of rulemaking proceedings?
2. Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) have been available to federal agencies for over 20 years but have been underutilized.
 - a. What barriers at the federal level are preventing or deterring greater utilization of ESPCs by federal agencies?
 - b. Are there other areas, such as in the federal vehicle fleet, where innovative uses of ESPCs can be used to promote cost savings to the federal government, as well as the use of alternative fuels?
3. In 2011, President Obama directed federal agencies to enter into \$2 billion worth of Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs).
 - a. What is the current status of the President’s ESPC initiative?
 - b. What is the biggest barrier to achieving the President’s \$2 billion goal?
4. Dr. Hogan testified during the hearing that the Department serves in a technical capacity during the development of the building energy codes.
 - a. Please describe this involvement in greater detail.
 - b. Does the Department participate in advocacy during building code development, either in support of or in opposition to, changes or updates? If yes, please provide examples of such advocacy.

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess

1. You mentioned during your testimony that DOE has had numerous discussions with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) regarding rising gas prices. What collaborative efforts has DOE and the CFTC identified to address rising gas prices?
2. Which offices within DOE are working with the CFTC to address rising gas prices?

3. What effect does DOE expect any collaborative efforts with the CFTC will have regarding gas prices?
4. Has DOE provided any specific recommendations to the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) for ways the Congressional office buildings can reduce their energy consumption that the AOC was not already considering?
5. Has DOE provided guidance to all agencies and federal buildings regarding how to reduce energy consumption?
 - a. What is the status of implementation of any such recommendations?
 - b. Has DOE identified any recommendations for reducing energy consumption that were not identified by private energy audits of federal buildings?

The Honorable Bill Cassidy

1. In our dialogue you claimed the availability of energy efficient mortgages and cited the problem in a lack of awareness among potential consumers about such mortgages. Can the Department please provide information about the availability and accessibility of such mortgages for homebuilders?
2. In our dialogue you stated that there is conversation ongoing through the codes organizations on how to have a performance-based path get to an outcome in a least-cost way. You also mentioned that the DOE is not part of the code-making but instead participates in energy-savings determinations relative to the code. However, DOE does participate in the development of energy codes, provides code change proposals and seeks to advance energy efficiency by advocating for more stringent energy codes. Additionally, ECPA and subsequent energy bills have authorized the Department of Energy to provide technical assistance and incentive funding to the states to update their state building energy codes. Can you please identify the statutory authority for this action? If the language in the ECPA is interpreted to allow for this, please explain that justification.

Furthermore, in the 2012 version of the IECC, it specifies the use of foam insulation over structural wood panels in certain climate zones. Does DOE plan to support the elimination of such product specific mandates in the 2015 version of the IECC?

3. Studies have shown that energy savings in the 2012 IECC is roughly 30 to 40% more efficient than the 2006 IECC. At this point the stringency of the code has reached the point of diminishing returns on the building envelope and in many cases high efficiency equipment is the most cost-effective means to save energy. I understand that the Department of Energy has reviewed the concept of reinstating equipment trade-offs toward code compliance, but ultimately decided *not* to support this proposal for the 2015 IECC proposal. Can you indicate how this decision was evaluated?

The Honorable Peter Welch

1. Dr. Hogan, in the President's "Plan for a Strong Middle Class and a Strong Economy", the President calls for a doubling of U.S. energy productivity by 2030 (similar to the Alliance to Save Energy's Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy). Dr. Hogan, could you please discuss how the Administration proposes to achieve this goal?