

## OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Energy Subcommittee Markup  
*H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the Department of Energy Research and Development Act of 2014*

June 11, 2014

Thank you, Madam Chair for yielding to me. I will be brief in my remarks. Today's subcommittee markup represents a step backward for this Committee. On Monday the House overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan NASA Authorization bill that showed what this Committee can accomplish when things are done the right way.

Today, on the other hand, we get to see how dysfunctional the Committee becomes when things are done the wrong way.

The bill we are marking up today was first seen by the Minority late Friday afternoon.

Apparently, this was also the first time this bill was seen by the many outside stakeholders who have an interest in basic and applied energy research. For all I know, it may even have been the first time other Majority Members of the Committee saw the bill.

In the past eight months this subcommittee has had one joint hearing and one subcommittee hearing, and it occurred only just yesterday.

We have virtually no legislative record to support this bill-- a bill that is over 100 pages long. This is not good legislating. How can the Committee be marking up legislation that was not the product of legislative hearings and was not vetted by outside stakeholders or the Department of Energy? Congress should not be writing legislation in a vacuum.

Madam Chair, this markup is premature. We need to put the brakes on this ill advised process and start it over.

There is still plenty of time in this session of Congress to hold legislative hearings on this bill and then move forward with a constructive markup. Otherwise, we will be acting in an uninformed manner to move a bill that will go nowhere.

I would also point out that, as with the misguided FIRST Act, we are moving an authorization for Fiscal Year 2015 at the same exact time as the Appropriations Committee is moving the relevant appropriations bill. In fact, the Energy and Water bill was marked up in subcommittee yesterday.

And, just as in the FIRST Act, the amounts appropriated in the Energy and Water bill are very different from the amounts in the bill today. Are we really going to pick a fight over funding

levels with the Appropriations Committee? I have a very hard time believing that this isn't just a massive waste of our Committee's time and energy.

We should stop this markup, start over, and work together to develop a constructive bill. This Committee has the potential to pass meaningful legislation if the Majority would simply engage in a meaningful process.

Until that time, I strongly oppose the consideration and passage of this bill.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.