



# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON **SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**

## Opening Statement

**Ranking Member Deborah Ross (D-NC)**  
**of the Subcommittee on Energy**

Subcommittee on Energy Hearing:  
*Igniting America's Energy Future: The Promise and Progress of Fusion Power*

September 18, 2025

*Thank you, Chairman Weber, for convening today's hearing on the current landscape of fusion energy – where we stand, what remains to be done, and how the federal government can play a pivotal role in ensuring U.S. leadership in a technology that could well revolutionize our entire energy sector.*

*I also want to thank this impressive panel of witnesses for being here this morning. The U.S. is at a critical moment in the effort to develop fusion as a carbon-neutral, sustainable source of energy. Breakthroughs in plasma physics, technology, public-private partnerships, and private sector innovation are giving us reasons to believe that fusion can become a game-changer for clean power, climate resilience, energy security, and economic opportunity.*

*In my home district, North Carolina State University has just launched a new remote control room under its Future Fusion Research initiative. In July, the Fusion Plasma Auxiliaries Characterization lab at NC State successfully participated in their experiment at the DIII-D fusion experiment in San Diego from this remote facility, marking a significant step toward enabling greater student and institutional access to national and international fusion research facilities. It demonstrates how federal investment in infrastructure prepares students for the high-skill jobs of tomorrow, fosters innovation and partnerships, and positions the U.S. to lead globally.*

*Universities like NC State, our national laboratories, and private innovators depend on steady investment. That said, as I know many of the witnesses here today will discuss further, our nation's competitiveness in fusion is also threatened by the absence of federal investment in major new facilities to address key gaps in materials science and technology development. Without that support, the U.S. will likely fall behind both scientifically and economically in yet another critical new industry.*

*The federal role remains essential. Challenges like ensuring the stability of a "burning plasma", materials resilience, and reactor system design require a substantial growth in federal support, a trained workforce, and demonstration projects that can scale from experiments to net energy gain. These are the building blocks of a new clean energy future for us all.*

*I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about the current hurdles on the path to a U.S.-based commercial fusion industry, and where federal action could make the greatest difference.*

*Thank you, and I yield back.*