



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**FY17 Department of Energy Budget Hearing
March 1, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. Secretary Moniz, thank you for being here today. I welcome you back to the Energy and Water subcommittee.

The work you do at the Department of Energy has significant implications for our ability to grow our economy. The investments you make in the way energy is sourced, stored and distributed not only determine the future of our energy security, but also whether hardworking Americans can expect to have access to reliable energy at an affordable price. Energy impacts every industry and every sector of our economy, so much so that we cannot understate the role it plays in an employer's ability to grow their business, or a family's ability to plan and stick to their household budget.

With families paying more for power and growing unrest in energy-producing countries overseas, the question of how we achieve energy independence is more important than ever. So the question remains, knowing that we have abundant energy resources right here in this country, why is this Administration committed to leaving them in the ground?

This Administration's priorities with regard to coal are very clear. Rather than supporting an "all of the above" energy policy, as they claim, their actions suggest that their true intention is to "keep coal in the ground" – and they do so at a very high cost. Coal is the cheapest and most abundant natural resource in this country, and businesses, schools, communities can rely on it during storms, record cold temperatures and other unexpected circumstances. Meanwhile, this Administration's War on Coal has left 10,000 coal miners in my District laid off. They are trying desperately to find work in other industries, when they should be hard at work providing us with access to the affordable and reliable energy that coal provides. Nevertheless, this Administration continues to write rule after rule intended to regulate coal out of the marketplace, and my constituents out of work.

Today you present us with an energy budget that slashes funding for coal research in favor of renewable energy. Congress has repeatedly restored funding for coal research and development, and in doing so has sent a very clear message about our priorities for our national energy policy. Yet again, you have ignored Congressional direction in favor of the priorities set by extreme environmental groups and the EPA. The Department has requested a reduction from FY16 enacted levels for CCS & Power Systems, while restructuring it in order to integrate funding for coal and natural gas carbon capture projects. Congress has separated these funding streams in the past in order to ensure that the funding appropriated to develop CCS technologies for each

resource are utilized as intended. Furthermore, while you have given renewable energy a sizable \$825 million increase, you have reduced fossil energy investments by \$272 million. This represents a 43% reduction, which you propose to make up for with budgetary gimmicks.

You continually state that you are committed to an “all of the above” energy policy, and that this begins with a commitment to low carbon. If that were the case, this budget request would make the necessary CCS and coal research investments that seem to be missing in an effort to implement that policy. With coal generating 40% of the electricity in this country, CCS technology and investment in fossil energy research is vital to developing an energy economy that is reliable, affordable and efficient. This budget request does not make the necessary investments in achieving this goal.

These topics are critical to ensuring the affordability and reliability of the many energy sources we have in this country, and to our national security. I look forward to hearing your testimony and discussing how we can support an “all of the above” energy policy that includes coal.

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