

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Joint House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Energy
&

Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa

“Eastern Mediterranean Energy: Challenges and Opportunities for U.S. Regional Priorities”

September 8, 2016

Good afternoon, and thank you Madame Chair for holding this hearing on energy opportunities in the Middle East and in particular on the U.S. research and development partnerships in the region.

DOE’s international partnerships span the globe and they are an important tool in expanding clean energy innovation and addressing climate change. One of the strongest partnerships we have is with Israel.

Our nation and the State of Israel have a long history of cooperation in developing clean energy technologies, and in promoting and ensuring energy security for Israel in particular. This relationship is not only in each of our national interests, but vital for our shared commitment to the region as well.

The U.S. supports a number of successful initiatives to promote this collaboration. The DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s (EERE) has issued awards for research in wind, solar, energy storage, and many others. These funds are matched by the Israeli government and the awardee, allowing for greater leverage on every dollar DOE invests.

In addition to DOE’s work with Israel, the Department has also collaborated with industries in Turkey to employ better energy efficiency practices and technologies.

These partnerships strengthen our country’s own R&D efforts and make a positive impact on our diplomatic work in the region. If we wish to continue to promote scientific advancement and energy security, greater collaboration in research and development must continue to be a high priority.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panel on the progress we have made in this area and on the opportunities we should turn to next.

With that, I yield back.