



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

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## Opening Statement

**Ranking Member Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)**  
**of the Subcommittee on Energy**

*From Theory to Reality: The Limitless Potential of Fusion Energy*

June 13, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Williams, for convening this hearing today, and thank you to our panel of distinguished witnesses for appearing before the Committee to talk about a subject that is not only fascinating but also, hopefully, very significant for our clean energy future. Fusion energy is a topic that I personally have loved delving into since joining the Science Committee, and I know that many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle share my enthusiasm. It is no surprise why this clean energy source is attractive; the material used as fuel is practically infinitely abundant, it is safe, and it is clean – it does not produce greenhouse gas emissions or other forms of pollution. So fusion energy would be a real game changer for humanity.

While we still have a lot of catching up to do in other aspects of climate action, the federal government has recognized the great potential fusion energy holds. Congress, through the acts of this Committee, has authorized sweeping federal policy for fusion energy research and development in the handful of historic climate and energy bills passed into law over the past few years. And a few of those bills, along with annual appropriations, have provided significant funding for these activities. I am pleased to see that President Biden's budget request for Fiscal Year 2024 asks for funding very close to the authorization of appropriations provided in one of these bills – the Science Committee's landmark CHIPS and Science Act. All of these actions display broad support for fusion energy from the federal government.

And we are seeing the fruits of our labor. There have been huge developments in the field over the past few years which are bringing us closer to realizing the full potential of fusion energy. There have been advances in engineering and system performance as well as the achievement of a burning plasma and fusion ignition. There has also been a flurry of private investment in fusion energy technology, and I know some of our witnesses here today can attest to that.

But as we all know all too well, the impacts of climate change are devastating, and we must continue ramping up our ambition levels. Those of us from districts in the Northeast, such as mine, and even those of us here in DC all experienced the smoke from the Canadian wildfires last week. Everyone felt the effects, from workers who had no choice but to continue working outside, to commuters, to children who could not play outside for recess. And this incident is not unique or isolated; the climate crisis is far reaching, and it is an existential matter for all of us. So I will continue to advocate for robust funding for fusion energy, and for the many other clean

energy solutions that can be deployed today, in order to protect our health, safety, and future. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I look forward to this discussion, and I yield back.