

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Energy Subcommittee Hearing
*Recommendations of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the
National Energy Laboratories*
2318 Rayburn House Office Building
November 18, 2015; 2:00 PM

Opening Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's hearing. And I would also like to thank our witnesses for being here and providing their expertise on this important topic.

For over 70 years, our national energy laboratories have been at the forefront of advancing science and technology in the U.S. From the beginning, both competition and cooperation among the labs have been encouraged in order to foster an innovative environment that produces cutting edge research results. Our discussion here today focuses on what can be done to ensure that that research progress is sustained.

The report produced by this Commission, which two of our witnesses co-chaired, provides key insights into how we can more effectively manage these critical components of our national research infrastructure for the ultimate benefit of all Americans. I encourage the Department of Energy to seriously consider the recommendations in this report that aim to create the right balance between appropriate oversight of the labs and entrusting them with more independence to pursue innovative and cost-effective solutions to addressing DOE's mission needs.

I look forward to hearing the testimony from today's witnesses on how to best achieve these goals. With that I yield back the balance of my time.