

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Hearing of the Energy Subcommittee
A Review of the P5: The U.S. Vision for Particle Physics After Discovery of the Higgs Boson

June 10, 2014

Thank you Chairman Lummis for holding this hearing today, and I would also like to thank the witnesses for being here.

The U.S. physics community is well-recognized for its world leadership in shedding light on the mysteries of the universe. Your major contributions to the recent, Nobel Prize-winning discovery of the Higgs boson [*pronounced: BOZE-on*] is just one more example of this. Yet what I also find remarkably impressive is the ability of the community to set priorities and make tough decisions about its future to ensure that we have the strongest program we possibly can, even in a difficult budget environment. That's what this report that we're reviewing today clearly demonstrates.

That said, this report also provides a clear warning about the consequences to our leadership, and even more importantly, to the advancement of the frontiers of science if we end up adopting the lowest funding scenario that you were asked to consider. I frankly believe that you should be rewarded for the hard work it must have taken to set these carefully considered priorities under such difficult constraints. And I believe this is one area on which many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I can find some agreement.

I look forward to discussing this further with each of you today. With that I yield back the balance of my time.