OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eric Swalwell
Subcommittee on Energy
House 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, and I also want to thank this excellent panel of witnesses for their testimony and for being here today. I'm especially pleased to see northern California so well represented, which clearly means that this is going to be a particularly informative and productive hearing. That of course is not meant to take anything away from you, Dr. Lockyer.

We're here today to discuss the recently released P5 report, which lays out a vision for particle physics in the United States over the next decade. The timing of this report couldn't be any better, as we are at an extremely exciting time in the history of the field. With the major advances that have been made over just the past couple of years, such as the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of the Higgs boson *[pronounced: BOZE-on]* as well as the potential detection of gravitational waves first predicted by Einstein almost a hundred years ago, we are equipped with new knowledge and advancing technologies that will allow humans to further engage our innate curiosity about everything from the fundamental building blocks of our world to the origin and evolution of the universe.

However, as amazing as these developments may be and as much as we would like to continue to push the frontiers of science, we are also forced to keep in mind our current fiscally constrained environment. This is the reason the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation charged the P5 Panel with doing the hard work of prioritizing particle physics projects under several difficult budget scenarios - the lowest one being particularly restrictive and, in my view, unacceptable given the critical missed opportunities that would be required to meet it. I believe the end result is a very strong product, and I want to thank Dr. Ritz for his leadership of the P5, as well as the entire P5 team for their efforts.

Tough decisions were obviously made, especially considering the long-term nature of building and operating particle physics facilities. The Higgs boson I mentioned earlier was found using the Large Hadron Collider, which took ten years to build and will continue operations well into the next decade. And, in fact, the Higgs boson's existence was first postulated 50 years ago.

This gives us an idea of how far out the P5 had to look when working through the prioritization process. And what they produced provides policymakers with sound guidance, which we should in turn use to provide the particle physics community with the support and the stability it needs to conduct complex, long-term research that will help us understand far more about the nature of

our universe. The United States has a long history of leadership in advanced physics, and I think we have been presented with a report that will help ensure that that continues to be the case.

Madam Chair, before I yield back, I would like to quickly congratulate Dr. Drell on recently being named Dean of Engineering at Stanford University. She will be the first woman to serve in that role. This is even more evidence that we have truly assembled some of the top minds in the field here today.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, and I am looking forward to learning more from our panel. With that, I yield back.