

**Representative Eric Swalwell**  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Hearing of the Energy Subcommittee  
*Hearing on Oversight and Management of Department of Energy National  
Laboratories and Science Activities*  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building  
July 10, 2013; 9:30 AM

**Opening Statement**

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

It is no secret by now that I am a major supporter of the Department of Energy's national laboratories, even a few of the ones that aren't in my District. These labs carry out world-class research on issues of national and global importance, they employ many of our country's brightest minds in science and engineering, and they continue to inspire, train, and support new generations of American researchers and industry leaders. They also serve as an important path by which new technologies can move to market in ways that benefit its public and private partners alike, and in turn, the U.S. taxpayer.

While it is important to recognize the great work being done across the country by our national labs as well as other researchers supported by Department of Energy programs, it is equally important to consider what opportunities exist to make improvements.

That is why I am excited to learn more about these ideas and opportunities at today's hearing. For example, one of the recommendations in this report is to merge the Department's Under Secretary for Energy and Under Secretary for Science into a single Under Secretary for Science & Technology, which I believe makes a lot of sense as it would finally establish a single individual in DOE with both the sole responsibility and authority to advance new energy technologies from basic research through commercialization activities. The report also recommends a number of interesting ways that we may be able to accelerate technology transfer and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our labs, and I look forward to exploring these ideas further with our DOE laboratory witnesses shortly.