

Representative Eric Swalwell
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Hearing of the Energy Subcommittee
The Future of Coal: Utilizing America's Abundant Energy Resources
2318 Rayburn House Office Building
July 25, 2013; 9:30 AM

Opening Statement

Thank you, Chairman Lummis, for holding this hearing. I want to also thank the witnesses for their testimony and for being here to answer our questions today. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Judi Greenwald, from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a group that does a lot of work in Texas, the home state of our Full Committee Chairman Mr. Smith, our Ranking Member Ms. Johnson, and my colleague on this Subcommittee, Mr. Veasey.

This hearing is an opportunity to demonstrate the value of a true “all-of-the-above” approach to energy production, which has to include taking the necessary steps to make existing fuel technologies cleaner and more efficient. I am a strong supporter of the policies that have helped my state of California see growth in the solar and wind energy sectors, which provide clean energy to millions while meeting the job demands of a growing workforce. However, we should not ignore the possibilities available today as we move towards the fuels of tomorrow.

Programs like the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative demonstrate the innovative capabilities of a mature coal industry that has long enjoyed federal support. Carbon capture and storage and enhanced oil recovery are examples of important technologies that will help ensure that our present reliance on coal will not hinder our ability to move towards a cleaner, safer environment. These advances also support Americans working in these industries today, even as we lay the foundation for emerging energy technologies that will support the workforce of the future.

I look forward to learning more from our witnesses about progress being made in this area, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.