OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Alan Grayson (D-FL)
of the Energy Subcommittee

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Energy Subcommittee Hearing
"An Overview of Fusion Energy Science"
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome this distinguished panel of witnesses here today to discuss a topic that I believe is of critical importance to the future of our nation, and indeed, the world.

Fusion energy has the potential to provide a practically unlimited supply of safe, reliable, clean energy to us all. While we have yet to achieve a viable fusion reactor, I believe that there are many paths to do so. I also do not believe that we are doing nearly enough to ensure that we are pursuing the most promising approaches to achieving this goal, and we're not doing it as quickly, and as effectively, as possible.

Fusion energy can be a global game-changer, and it is going to happen. Whether it happens 5 years from now, or 50 years from now, depends on the decisions that we make.

That is why, while I appreciate the participation of both the ITER Director General and the Director of DOE's only national laboratory dedicated to advancing fusion energy, I am also particularly pleased that we have Dr. Hsu on the panel this morning. He is the recipient of the largest award from a recently established ARPA-E program, that is examining the potential for an alternative innovative fusion energy concept, called magnetized target fusion, which may achieve net energy production far sooner and with much lower capital costs than conventional approaches.

I look forward to hearing Dr. Hsu's thoughts on how the Department of Energy can better support and assess the viability of game-changing approaches like his. I also look forward to learning more about the progress that ITER has made under Dr. Bigot's leadership to address previously identified management deficiencies and to establish a more reliable path forward for the project. And finally, I look forward to hearing Dr. Prager's views on how we can, and should, regain U.S. leadership in fusion energy development, moving forward.

Thank you all again for being here today. I yield back.