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CHIEF OF STAFF

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Opening Statement of
Chairman Doc Hastings
House Natural Resources Committee
Before the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
Legislative Hearing on:
H.R. 2170, H.R. 2171, H.R. 2172, H.R. 2173
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Thank you Chairman Lamborn for holding this hearing today,

It's often said that there's no silver bullet to achieving energy security – and I agree. Any long-term energy policy must include all types of American energy, from oil and natural gas to alternative and renewable forms such as wind, solar, nuclear and hydropower.

This all-of-the-above energy approach is the cornerstone of House Republicans' American Energy Initiative, an on-going effort to advance legislation that will expand all types of American energy production to create jobs and stop Obama Administration policies that are raising energy prices.

Republicans recognize that energy diversity is essential for energy security.

That's why I'm proud this Committee has not only advanced legislation to expand American oil and natural gas production but is now turning our focus to critical minerals and renewable energy projects on federal lands and waters.

The Full Committee has held two hearings examining roadblocks to renewable energy production on public lands. We heard over and over again from representatives of the renewable energy industry about the need for certainty. They currently have to navigate through a twisted maze that involves conflicting answers from different agencies, bureaucratic hurdles and endless litigation.

It's sad but true that too often the biggest obstacle to renewable energy production is the federal government.

The four bills we are discussing today take steps to correct that. They all share a common goal of streamlining regulatory hurdles and creating a simpler, clearer path to develop renewable energy projects on federal lands.

For example, environmental reviews should be focused on the specific areas where the renewable energy project will be located,

Small, temporary structures to test onshore and offshore wind to determine the best location to put a windmill should not be bogged down in red tape.

And each geothermal exploration hole should not have to go through a separate approval process when they are on the same tract of leased land.

These are all common sense proposals that will cut years off the time it takes to develop these projects.

These bills are necessary in order to encourage the timely and efficient production of renewable energy on our federal lands and waters in order to create jobs and expand all types of renewable energy production.