

DOC HASTINGS, WA  
CHAIRMAN  
DON YOUNG, AK  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN  
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX  
ROB BISHOP, UT  
DOUG LAMBORN, CO  
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA  
PAUL C. BROUN, GA  
JOHN FLEMING, LA  
MIKE COFFMAN, CO  
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA  
GLENN THOMPSON, PA  
JEFF DENHAM, CA  
DAN BENISHEK, MI  
DAVID RIVERA, FL  
JEFF DUNCAN, SC  
SCOTT R. TIPTON, CO  
PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ  
RAÚL R. LABRADOR, ID  
KRISTI L. NOEM, SD  
STEVE SOUTHERLAND II, FL  
BILL FLORES, TX  
ANDY HARRIS, MD  
JEFFREY M. LANDRY, LA  
CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN, TN  
JON RUNYAN, NJ  
BILL JOHNSON, OH

TODD YOUNG  
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA  
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
DALE E. KILDEE, MI  
PETER A. DeFAZIO, OR  
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AS  
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA  
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ  
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, AZ  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU  
JIM COSTA, CA  
DAN BOREN, OK  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN, CNMI  
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM  
BEN RAY LUJÁN, NM  
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD  
BETTY SUTTON, OH  
NIKI TSONGAS, MA  
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR  
JOHN GARAMENDI, CA  
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA, HI

JEFFREY DUNCAN  
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

**Opening Statement of**  
**The Honorable Doug Lamborn**  
**Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing On**

**H.R. 2360 (Landry), H.R. 2752 (Johnson-OH), and H.R. 2803 (Faleomavaega)**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

Today, we are holding the first legislative hearing on a package of small bills that will help create jobs, reduce government costs and secure our nation's resources. I hope this is only the first of many hearings where we can reach a bipartisan agreement on bills that will accomplish these goals for America.

Our first bill today is the POWER Act, H.R. 2360, introduced by Mr. Landry of Louisiana. Currently, there appears to be a potential loophole that may exempt offshore renewable energy from certain federal laws by virtue of the fact that they are not directly producing energy from minerals like oil and gas, rather from renewable sources such as wind energy or tidal energy from the ocean. This is due to the current wording in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Perhaps when the language in this act was developed, offshore wind energy, tidal and kinetic energy was not as close to a reality as it is today.

But, as we all know this committee is for All-of-the-Above energy and all the jobs that come along with it. H.R. 2630, would fix this loophole, this is a simple fix that seeks to ensure that all our nation's laws are applied fully and fairly on our nation's Outer Continental Shelf lands.

By fixing this current loophole, both the renewable and domestic maritime industries will have greater certainty in the fair application of our nation's laws to all offshore alternative energy development, rather than awaiting various rulings and interpretations from federal agencies. It is my hope that this small fix will spur job creation in our nation's offshore energy industries and that offshore energy, in all forms, will increasingly be developed to increase our nation's energy independence.

Today we will also be hearing testimony on H.R. 2752, the BLM Live Internet Auctions Act. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Bill Johnson and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct internet-based onshore oil and gas lease sales.

The Leasing Reform Act of 1987 required that federal onshore oil and gas lease sales be conducted in-person. Undoubtedly, the Congress in the mid 80's could not predict where constantly evolving technology would be able to take us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, except maybe then

Rep. Al Gore. In an effort to keep up with technology, in the fiscal year 2008 budget, Congress appropriated funds for a pilot internet leasing program. This pilot program was held in 2009 with extremely positive results.

Internet leasing was also one suggestion issued by the Department of the Interior's 2009 report on how to reduce fraud in the onshore bidding process after it was discovered that a citizen activist was able to place fake bids worth nearly \$2 million dollars for onshore leases – with no intention of returning the money to the taxpayers. H.R. 2752 would reduce the potential for fraud in the bidding process, save taxpayer dollars, and ensure that taxpayers get a fair return for leases on federal land. It may also expand the pool of bidders and generate more revenue for the American taxpayer.

Finally, the last bill we will consider is H.R. 2803, introduced by Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS), this bill that directs the Secretary of the Interior through BOEMRE to assess the non-fuel mineral resources within the US exclusive economic zone, including the territories and affiliated states; the technological capability of the United States to explore for and harvest these mineral resources; the economic feasibility of deep seabed mining; and to report their findings back to congress within two years.

Mr. Faleomavaega is not able to join us today as he has a family emergency, however he has been a strong advocate for his constituents and has looked for opportunities to create jobs for the people in American Samoa and has often spoke of mining manganese nodules, potential rare earth minerals, and other opportunities from the deep seabed. This bill is especially timely as there have been numerous articles on deep seabed mining including an article on China's new submersible designed for that very purpose.

H.R. 2803 is a common sense bill that will provide the US with valuable information regarding the non-fuel mineral resources that lie within the United States and its territories and affiliated states Exclusive Economic zone.

All three of these bills are before the Subcommittee in bipartisan fashion, these three bills represent opportunities for us to promote job creation, domestic energy and mineral security, and reduce the cost of government. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and I urge my colleagues to give these bills a closer examination and their support.