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

Opening Statement of
Chairman Doc Hastings
House Natural Resources Committee
Oversight Hearing on
"ANWR: Jobs, Energy and Deficit Reduction"
Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

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At a time when our Nation is in desperate need of new job creation and cutting the staggering national debt, this Committee is uniquely positioned to advance solutions that accomplish both these priorities. Responsibly harnessing America's onshore and offshore energy resources will create millions of new jobs and generate billions in new revenue.

And without a doubt, ANWR is the single greatest opportunity for new energy production on federal land. No single energy project in America can produce more jobs and do more to reduce the debt.

As I stated two weeks ago, I believe that the Joint Select Committee working to find \$1.5 trillion in budget savings should embrace opening ANWR. The Joint Committee should act on ANWR and increased production of the taxpayers' energy resources across the board. There is bipartisan support for this in Congress, and now is the time to take full advantage of this job-creating, deficit-reducing resource.

Section 1002 of ANWR was deliberately and intentionally reserved for the purpose of energy production in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. It is not Wilderness and it contains 10.4 billion barrels of oil according to conservative estimates.

While ANWR is 19 million acres total, a plan developing less than 500,000 acres would provide access to the majority of ANWR's energy resources. This means that we can harness the potential of ANWR by using less than 3 percent of its acreage.

Producing this much oil would generate substantial revenue for the federal government through leasing and royalties. According to the Congressional Research Service, it could generate \$150 - \$296 billion in new federal revenue over the life of production.

I want to emphasize that this revenue is just from leasing and royalties. It doesn't include the cumulative economic impacts from harnessing ANWR's energy resources. For example, a new energy project means new business spending and new jobs in the construction, transportation and manufacturing sectors. New jobs mean there are more people contributing to our economy and

paying taxes. It improves the health of economies and government budgets at the local, state and federal levels. Allowing energy production in ANWR is an investment in the U.S. economy worth several hundred billions of dollars.

We are here today to take an honest and fair look at ANWR's resources and what the potential they hold for our country in terms of jobs, revenue and economic growth. We are searching for real solution to our Nation's problems.

Unfortunately, there are those who will automatically say no – no to job creation and deficit reduction no matter the advancements in technology or how small the footprint of operations at ANWR would be.

The witnesses called to testify today before the Committee exemplify this point.

The Minority has chosen to invite two witnesses that lead Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organizations, which is their rightful choice.

In contrast, the Majority has invited real people who live and work in Alaska. A truck driver, a tribal leader, and a labor union representative are joined by the bipartisan Congressional delegation. They will tell us firsthand what ANWR production will mean to them, their neighbors and their communities – the jobs it will create and the economic boost it will provide their state and our entire country.

Given the Nation's high jobless rate and growing debt and deficits, it's time to move forward to create thousands of jobs and generate billions in new federal revenue by harnessing the energy potential of ANWR.