

NICK J. RAHALL II, WV
CHAIRMAN
DALE E. KILDEE, MI
ENI F.H. FALCOMAVAEGA, AS
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ
RAUL M. GRIJALVA, AZ
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU
JIM COSTA, CA
DAN BOREN, OK
GREGORIO SABLAN, MP
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM
GEORGE MILLER, CA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
PETER A. DEFazio, OR
MAURICE D. HINCHey, NY
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN, VI
DIANA DeGETTE, CO
RON KIND, WI
LOIS CAPPS, CA
JAY INSLEE, WA
JOE BACA, CA
STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, SD
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NH
NIKI TSONGAS, MA
FRANK KRATOVL, JR., MD
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR

JAMES H. ZOIA
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

DOC HASTINGS, WA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
DON YOUNG, AK
ELTON GALLEGLY, CA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN
JEFF FLAKE, AZ
HENRY E. BROWN, JR., SC
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WA
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX
ROB BISHOP, UT
BILL SHUSTER, PA
DOUG LAMBORN, CO
ADRIAN SMITH, NE
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA
PAUL C. BROUN, GA
JOHN FLEMING, LA
MIKE COFFMAN, CO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UT
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WY
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA
BILL CASSIDY, LA

TODD YOUNG
REPUBLICAN CHIEF OF STAFF

**Opening Statement
Of
Congressman Doug Lamborn
Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**

Joint Oversight Hearing on ““Getting Past Gridlock: Models for Renewable Energy Siting and Transmission””

**House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
Subcommittee on Water & Power
Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 10:00a.m.,
in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Madam Chair for holding this important hearing today on the importance of finding solutions to our Western energy needs. I appreciate the opportunity to address an issue that is so important to the development of renewable energy projects in the West.

It was just over a year and a half ago that we were all in the hearing room down the hall considering an almost identical issue. At that time, we examined Sec 368 the West-wide Energy Corridor provision of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The first witness on our second panel said, “The smartest power line is the one we do not need to build.” Well since that time we have done plenty of not building power lines in the West.

Today, we are focusing on how to get past “gridlock”. Which if it wasn’t so sad, would almost be funny. The “gridlock” we have to overcome is the opposition from extreme environmentalists who are opposed to all energy development.

Just like the witness from last year so eloquently expressed, “the smartest power line is the one we do not need to build.”

For all the talk from the Department of the Interior on the rich future of wind and solar projects on federal lands the reality is far different.

Earlier this year the Secretary of Interior set aside all but 2% of the Department’s estimated solar resources for study. Locking up 98% of our solar resources is even worse than locking up 96% of our oil and gas onshore and offshore resources and that’s saying something. What creates more gridlock than locking up lands with domestic energy resources preventing development?

Is there anything hindering solar development in California more than the threat of investing millions in researching and designing a project only to have the lands you studied declared a national monument?

Could anything cripple wind energy development more than the investment of millions of dollars only to be derailed by lawsuits at the last minute?

These aren't simply rhetorical questions, but real challenges that we face today in developing our resources. We are here saying "we can build it, but we need just the right plan." Plans don't issue permits to build windmills, plans don't stop lawsuits from halting energy, and plans don't stop legislation from closing the richest resources from development. Plans don't create jobs build infrastructure or energy.

It's deeds and actions which generate energy, create jobs, and keep America moving and it is the reason we need an All-of-the-Above energy act to see that energy generated, the jobs created, and America back on firm economic footing.

Today we will hear about the progress that has been made in planning, zoning and preparing. We will hear little about actual new megawatts on the wires, jobs on the ground or lower energy prices for the American people.