

Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT)
House Committee on Natural Resources
Opening Statement
MEETING OF SENATE AND HOUSE CONFEREES ON
S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016

- Good morning.
- I want to thank leaders on both sides of the aisle and Capitol for their hard work in getting us to this point.
- This is the way the process was designed to work. Both chambers pass a bill and we convene a conference to negotiate differences in an open forum.
- As my colleagues are well aware, it's been almost a decade since the last energy bill passed Congress. Since that time, the energy landscape has changed dramatically.
- New technologies have emerged enabling us to safely and responsibly access resources that were previously unrecoverable or uneconomical to produce. It's created great prosperity in regions of the country in desperate need of economic rejuvenation.
- But more Americans will benefit if we pursue policies to spur rather than spoil innovation.
 - We need more Americans to share in the low prices afforded by American energy abundance – and that includes improving the permitting process to allow rights of way across federal lands (MacArthur).
 - We need to increase supply across the board.
 - With abundant supply, we also need new efficiencies and new demand opportunities.

- Energy code language in the House version is critically important. American families deserve a reasonable return on their investment, especially since these codes are forced upon them.
- I remain concerned with potential language in this package that may impact waste-to-energy facilities that help power many of our military installations. I look forward to working with my colleague on this.
- This isn't just an energy bill.
- Both bills encompass priorities related to energy but also natural resources and other pressing issues of national importance.
- Some have passed the Senate and not the House, and vice-versa. Some have received veto threats and others have not. Everything is on the table.
 - Solutions on drought should be acted upon.
 - Solutions on forest health and the increasing threat of catastrophic wildfire demand action. (Westerman bill)
 - Solutions on Tribal Energy (Young bill)
 - Solutions for overcoming regulatory barriers for sportsman (Wittman Bill) and recreational activities are long past due (the House has passed a bill for the past 4 Congresses)
- Let's put politics aside and allow the most well informed arguments determine the fate of this process. If the policies are good, let's pass a conference report. If not, let's call it a day. We don't need an "anything to get a bill" approach so that we can say we did it. Thank you.