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

Opening Statement of

Chairman Doug Lamborn

Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
on Thursday, June 12th, 2014
1334 Longworth House Office Building
Oversight hearing on: "American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Innovation."

So often in the hearings we have before this Subcommittee we focus on the American resources – the oil, gas, coal, wind, sun, tides – all of the resources that private industry harnesses daily to power our economy and bring affordable energy to American families. In this morning's hearing, we are focusing on the innovators – and the cutting edge technology applied to harness these fundamental resources that are so integral to our nation's energy portfolio.

In describing energy jobs and the innovative techniques used today to reach source rock deep beneath the earth's surface, I have heard some compare the engineering feats used for deepwater drilling operations to landing on the moon. These wells are drilled down through thousands of feet of water and then miles beneath the earth's surface, all to an area that has been mapped out using state of the art seismic technology. The science and engineering behind these operations is astounding and so are the innovators – forging new frontiers of American engineering. Perhaps the most fascinating part about it is that it is constantly being improved upon – whether it is to make an operation safer, further reduce the environmental footprint, or to increase efficiency and thereby increase production.

We see this directly in onshore wells as well, where some of the new hydraulic fracturing techniques that our witnesses will discuss today can be done with little to no water usage and can reduce costs – potential savings which can in turn can be passed on to the consumer. Our witnesses will also discuss the ways private industry promotes innovation in the workplace, and how they recruit and hire the next generation of innovators to continue this good work.

Our country has always been a nation of innovators – pushing the limits of technology to effect positive change both at home and abroad. In the energy sector in particular, innovation is the life blood of progress. It is my sincere hope that all of the witnesses present today will share their stories of homegrown American innovation and how their investments in human capital and technological innovation help to keep our nation globally competitive while also reducing our need for foreign imports through increased American energy production. This is an important and inspiring story to tell and I want to thank all of the witnesses for coming today and I look forward to their testimony.