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Opening Statement by Ranking Member Doug Lamborn
Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Joint Oversight Hearing on

JAMES H. ZOIA
CHIEF OF STAFF
“Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf and the Future of our Oceans.”

Tuesday, March 24 2009

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing. This is now the 6th hearing on OCS development held this Congress. Today’s hearing will give us a clearer understanding of the problems of the past and the hopes for our future.

Hearing Issues

I want to start by saying thank you to one of our witnesses here today. Mr. Brad Gilman will be testifying on behalf of Mayor Stanley Mack of the Aleutians East Borough today. If we had been given notice that this hearing was going to be all about Alaska and drilling in Alaskan waters, we would have had more success in actually having a witness from Alaska here today. Unfortunately, we weren’t given notice that the focus of one full panel was on Alaska until very late last week. I hope in the future we will have a clear notice about the intent of the hearings so we can have time to identify the appropriate witness to address the subject of the hearing.

Instead of hearing from the Mayor, we are going to hear from Oceana once again. At the first OCS hearing of this year we kept the Oceana witness so long we had to take a personal break for him, I hope we won’t do that again today.

Furthermore, we will be talking about oil spills. For some reason we will not be hearing from the Minerals Management Service (MMS) today. They are the principal US federal agency responsible for oil spill response research to fulfill oil spill regulatory responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). This includes the responsibility to manage the National Oil Spill Response Facility “Ohmsett.” For more than 25 years, MMS has maintained a comprehensive, long-term research program to improve oil spill response technologies. The major focus of the program is to improve the

I know that EIA has extensively examined the impacts that cap-and-trade programs will have on our economy and I look forward to listening and learning from the Administrator and the other witnesses.

Thank you.