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

Opening Statement
Of
Representative Doug Lamborn
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

On Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 10:00a.m
1334 Longworth House Office Building
before the legislative hearing on H.R. 2227,
“The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act.”

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Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you for holding this hearing. It is good that we are finally here to address legislation which will actually help produce more energy here in America. This hearing will help us understand the issues and policies set forward in HR 2227, “The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act.” You are to be complimented Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing today and for your focus on Outer Continental Shelf development. Unfortunately, the Administration could not be here to testify and help us address this important issue.

HR 2227

We are here addressing legislation which, while focusing on energy production, is really only a “some of the above” policy. It is a bill which falls short of the goal of an “All-of-the-Above” policy as advocated by Republicans in Congress.

Although, this bill is a vast improvement over the current policy of the Obama administration of no drilling, no exploration, and no study on the OCS areas formerly under moratoria. HR 2227 holds great promise of new domestic energy development, greater energy security, and job creation at a time when America needs all three. But it doesn’t go far enough.

AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

A better alternative would be the American Energy Act, which is also pending before this Committee. The American Energy Act is a true “all of the above” solution for the problems facing America. It would create more nuclear and renewable energy than the bill before us, and provide greater comprehensive energy security for America.

CHOOSING ENERGY

Republican members of the Natural Resources Committee are committed to developing all forms of domestic energy. Democrat members of this Committee have said they don’t mind importing energy and bring before the Committee witnesses who say the best energy infrastructure is that

which we don't build. Republicans are committed to bringing greater domestic energy production to the United States.

We have actively supported legislation to promote domestic renewable wind and solar energy, traditional oil and natural gas, expanded nuclear power, and maintaining and expanding renewable geothermal and renewable hydropower.

Everyday Americans continue to pay an increasing portion of their income in energy costs. This burden is most heavily carried by poor and working citizens and will only be exacerbated by the massive Democrat energy tax, or cap and tax, put forward by the majority.

The bill before the Subcommittee today, while helping expand domestic production of the OCS, remains short of a true energy solution for America. We can and must do more.

MARKUP REQUEST

If you are committed to energy development in America Mr. Chairman, then know that I and my Republican colleagues stand ready to assist you in marking up the American Energy Act this September so we could consider real legislation to produce more American energy this month.

CLOSING

At a time when Americans are facing high energy costs and record unemployment, we have seen the consequences of allowing radical environmentalists to hold the reins of our resources policies. The Natural Resources committee has the responsibility to take steps to address how to create more nuclear, solar, hydropower, and wind energy, and increase the production of domestic oil and gas, to reduce costs and create jobs for American citizens.

We look forward to today's hearing and more importantly, the opportunity to consider legislation to promote domestic energy production at a markup to ensure that we are improving our domestic energy security.