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**Opening Statement by Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Ranking Member Doug Lamborn**  
**before the February 11, 2009 Natural Resources Oversight Hearing**

Mr. Chairman, development of America's Outer Continental Shelf will create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and generate substantial revenue for the federal government. The conservative Congressional Research service said in the OCS areas which were under moratoria there is nearly \$800 billion in revenue available. This is nearly the same amount that we are spending in the stimulus package right now.

The choice between a clean environment and OCS development is a false premise. We can have both development and a clean environment, and one witness we will hear from today will tell us that if we want a cleaner environment we need more development. In 1999 the Department of Energy, then run by Secretary Bill Richardson, produced a report highlighting the "Environmental Benefits of Advanced Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Technology." This report found that modern technology means that oil exploration and development can be clean, create jobs, and produce the needed energy for America.

We will need this energy. While the Majority witnesses today will say that we don't the truth is that the Energy Information Administration says that we will continue importing massive volumes of oil from now through 2030. We don't have to continue that process we can develop our domestic resources and reduce our reliance on foreign energy.

While I am an advocate of increase OCS development I believe that we need more than just oil and gas development. We need to use all the resources available to us. This means we must expand areas for wind and solar and breakdown the barriers which stop those developments on federal lands. We should open more areas to tidal and wave energy harnessing the power of the oceans and tides to power America. We must crack open the oil shale of Colorado and free the resources inside for our future. We should expand our use of nuclear energy cutting permitting from decades to years. We need an "all of the above" energy strategy to free America and spur our economy.

Today's hearing is just a piece of that puzzle but one of the most important pieces before us.

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