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

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Statement of
Chairman Doc Hastings
Before the House Natural Resources Committee
Full Committee Markup
Wednesday, July 13, 2011

The *Cutting Red Tape to Facilitate Renewable Energy Act* is one of four renewable energy bills the Committee will consider today to help expand production on federal lands. We've heard from numerous witnesses about the bureaucratic hurdles, endless delays, conflicting answers from agencies, and the need for certainty when it comes to getting renewable energy projects approved on federal lands.

Frankly, I don't believe it should be this difficult and know that we can do better. If Congress and this Administration are serious about promoting renewable energy production, than our federal lands should be the model for how to safely, efficiently and responsibly develop these energy projects. But instead of being the model of excellence, the federal government has instead become one of the biggest obstacles to renewable energy projects.

The goal of all four of these bills is to streamline regulatory hurdles and create a simpler, clearer path to develop renewable energy projects.

For example, my bill would require that environmental reviews be focused on the specific location where the renewable energy project would be located. Requiring lengthy reviews for alternative locations is unnecessary and adds years to the time it takes to develop a renewable energy project. Cape Wind is a perfect example of a project being delayed because of this requirement.

This simple, common sense change will cut through regulatory red tape, allowing new renewable energy projects to be developed, while still ensuring thorough environmental analysis and review.

In order to achieve energy security, our Nation must develop a diverse energy plan that includes all types of energy production. We need renewable and alternative energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear and hydropower, and we also need to continue to increase production of American-made oil and natural gas.

This all-of-the-above approach is the cornerstone of House Republicans' American Energy Initiative, an on-going effort to advance legislation that will expand all types of American energy production to create jobs and stop Obama Administration policies that are raising energy prices.

Later during this markup, the Committee will also consider the *National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act*, a bill to unlock the full potential of the NPR-A. Once again, the federal government is blocking energy production in this area, which has been specifically designated as a petroleum reserve, by refusing to issue the necessary permits to transport the oil and natural gas out of the field and into the Trans Alaska Pipeline System to be delivered to the American people. This bill seeks to end bureaucratic hurdles and allow for these American energy resources to be developed and transported in a timely, efficient manner.

This Committee has already passed three offshore drilling bills with bipartisan support, and today I hope to add to that list five more bills focused on renewable energy production and onshore Alaska oil and natural gas. By passing these bills, we are sending a strong signal to the American people that we are serious about increasing ALL types of energy production, and understand the vital role it plays in job creation, economic development and our national security.