

DOC HASTINGS, WA  
CHAIRMAN  
DON YOUNG, AK  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN  
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX  
ROB BISHOP, UT  
DOUG LAMBORN, CO  
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA  
PAUL C. BROUN, GA  
JOHN FLEMING, LA  
MIKE COFFMAN, CO  
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA  
GLENN THOMPSON, PA  
JEFF DENHAM, CA  
DAN BENISHEK, MI  
DAVID RIVERA, FL  
JEFF DUNCAN, SC  
SCOTT R. TIPTON, CO  
PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ  
RAÚL R. LABRADOR, ID  
KRISTI L. NOEM, SD  
STEVE SOUTHERLAND II, FL  
BILL FLORES, TX  
ANDY HARRIS, MD  
JEFFREY M. LANDRY, LA  
JON RUNYAN, NJ  
BILL JOHNSON, OH  
MARK AMODEI, NV

TODD YOUNG  
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

**Opening Statement of**  
**The Honorable Doc Hastings**  
**Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources**  
**At the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Oversight Hearing on the**  
***"Effect of the President's FY 2013 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Ocean***  
***Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement***  
***(BSEE) on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production,***  
***Safety and Deficit Reduction"***  
**Thursday, March 8, 2012**

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA  
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
DALE E. KILDEE, MI  
PETER A. DeFAZIO, OR  
ENI F.H. FALÉOMAVAEGA, AS  
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA  
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ  
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, AZ  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU  
JIM COSTA, CA  
DAN BOREN, OK  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN, CNMI  
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM  
BEN RAY LUJÁN, NM  
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD  
BETTY SUTTON, OH  
NIKI TSONGAS, MA  
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR  
JOHN GARAMENDI, CA  
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA, HI  
PAUL TONKO, NY

JEFFREY DUNCAN  
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Over the past year, Chairman Lamborn and I have patiently and respectfully worked to conduct oversight into the sudden decision to reopen a multi-year Stream Buffer rulemaking and push forward with new regulations on a rushed timeframe. Since this oversight investigation started last February, the scope has expanded beyond just the decision to reopen the rulemaking, to broader actions that include contractor dismissals and how the rulemaking is being managed or mismanaged.

This is a serious matter that impacts the livelihood of entire communities, the jobs of thousands of coal miners across the nation, and the cost of life for Americans that depend on coal for electricity. Not only are coal jobs and cost of electricity at stake, but the agency is spending unknown sums of taxpayer dollars pursuing this rewrite, and the spending is climbing higher due to the highly questionable way it's being managed.

Over more than a year, through a series letters sent to you (OSM Director Joseph Pizarchik) and Secretary Salazar, this Committee has sought information, communications and documents. Not once over the last year, has a single deadline been met, and the Administration continues to withhold the vast majority of requested materials. This occurs despite your pledge of transparency at your confirmation hearings for this post, the Department of Interior's promoting their commitment to transparency and open government, and President Obama's declaration that transparency would be a "touchstone" of his Administration.

Congress and this Committee have an obligation to the American people to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch and get answers to the questions that are asked. We take this charge seriously. Great patience and diligence has been shown on our part, for over a year, as we've asked for information and documents, but there comes a time when we're left with no other choice but to compel the Department to produce these documents. That time is just about upon us. It shouldn't take a subpoena to get straight answers and documents, but if that is what it takes to get the Obama Administration to comply, then I'm prepared to take that step.

I yield back my time.