

Opening Statement
Congressman Ralph Hall (R-TX), Ranking Member
Committee on Science and Technology
Full Committee Markup
March 25, 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each of these bills address issues that are of national importance so thank you for holding this markup today to advance them. I will keep by opening remarks brief.

H.R. 1580, authorizes EPA to establish consortiums with private industry and academia to conduct research, development and demonstration projects to increase electronics recycling, reduce the environmental impacts of manufacturing electronics and to develop ways to increase the usable lifespan of new electronics. It also promotes crosscutting education for engineers by providing grants to higher-learning institutions to encourage the development of curricula that combines electrical, mechanical, industrial, material, and software engineering disciplines. These two efforts will be the first step that we can take to start addressing the problems associated with discarded electronic equipment.

Secondly, H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, organizes the federal government's approach to research of water resources. The bill would require, perhaps for the first time, every government agency involved in research of water resources to collaborate and create a Research and Assessment plan that will chart the course of U.S. research and development for years to come. Furthermore, it directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget to work with these agencies to coordinate their annual budgets to avoid duplicative efforts. These suggestions come from recommendations that National Science and Technology Council and the National Academy of Sciences have offered for years. I commend the Chairman on moving a bill that is critical to our nation's health and well-being.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and your staff for working with us on these bills before us today.

I yield back the balance of my time.