

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

HEARING

**The Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2008 Research and Development Budget
Proposal**

March 7, 2007

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis
(SC-4)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank our witnesses from the Department of Energy for appearing here today to discuss funding for vital research and development projects.

As we discuss the proposed R & D budget today, I think we all realize that we aren't accountants sitting around just talking numbers -- we're investors. The alternative fuel industry is a start-up business opportunity that promises huge payoffs for our nation's security, environment, and our economy. We have the ability and opportunity to partner with this promising enterprise and lend federal resources to help establish the alternative energy industry.

We haven't yet reached a place of energy security, nor have we scratched the surface of what economic benefits will come from energy advancements, but we don't have to look far to see great payoffs from today's investments. For that reason, we must stay committed to providing our scientists, national labs, and other R & D programs with adequate funding to continue the progress already made, and ensure our nation's energy security.

We should focus funding on a vast array of alternatives -- hydrogen, biofuels, wind, solar, and nuclear. If we are true investors, we will use discretion as certain alternatives prove to be more valuable than others. For now, there are many roads for our engineers, inventors, and scientists to follow, and we should not close those roads. On that note, I have specific concerns I will address regarding the future of the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative. For example, what exactly does the proposal mean when it says that the budget request "completes the President's commitment of \$1.2 billion over five years for this initiative?" I hope that you agree with me that \$1.2 billion is a good start and certainly not the end of our efforts.

Thank you for the Department of Energy's past, present, and future commitments to research and develop tomorrow's energy solutions.