



For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2014

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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)**  
*The Future of Nuclear Energy*

**Chairman Smith:** Today's hearing will examine both current and future challenges and opportunities that face nuclear power.

We will first hear from the Department of Energy on its research and development (R&D) strategy to ensure the United States' nuclear energy industry remains competitive. Our second panel will discuss the challenges that developers face in today's regulatory environment.

Nuclear power is a proven source of emission-free electricity that has been generated safely in the United States for over half a century.

However, our ability to move from R&D to market deployment has been hampered by government red tape and partisan politics. We are just now seeing the first reactors under construction in more than 30 years.

This hiatus has diminished our supply chain and ability to build new reactors. In fact, the United States no longer has the capability to manufacture large reactor pressure vessels.

Today, we will hear from NuScale, a company that is the closest to navigating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's licensing process to build and deploy the first small modular reactors in the United States.

We will also hear from Transatomic, a company recently formed by two graduate students from MIT that could revolutionize the energy sector.

Transatomic's technology would recycle spent nuclear fuel, achieve higher levels of efficiency than existing designs, and yield minimal radioactive byproducts.

The U.S. has not lived up to its potential when it comes to nuclear energy. The regulatory process is cumbersome and lacks the certainty needed for sustained investment in new nuclear energy technology.

I am hopeful that this hearing can serve as a forum for how to enable nuclear power to meet more of our energy needs.

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