

## **Opening Statement**

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Joint Subcommittee on Environment and Subcommittee on Energy  
*“Science of Capture and Storage: Understanding EPA’s Carbon Rules”*

March 12, 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that we will be able to hear testimony on this very important topic, and I want to thank the witnesses for appearing before us today.

Our climate is changing. These changes are resulting in more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and altered food webs. We must accept these new climate realities and be open to solutions if we are at all serious about protecting the health of American families. So I am happy to join my colleagues Ms. Bonamici and Mr. Swalwell in expressing my approval of the steps being taken by the Administration and by EPA, to advance clean energy technologies and protect future generations from the harmful effects of carbon pollution.

Throughout history industry has often resisted addressing environmental problems that emerge from a greater scientific understanding of how human activities impact the environment and our health. And in many of these cases, industry simply refuses to act without regulatory intervention and proper government oversight. The technology which we are discussing today, carbon capture and storage, or CCS technology, is an example of the type of innovative solutions that will not be implemented without a regulatory incentive to lower the amount carbon being emitted.

I, like many of my colleagues, wish that Congress would enact legislation to address climate change. Unfortunately, the current political realities will not allow us to act. So I say let us not stand in the way of EPA and necessary change. Let the Administration continue to move us forward, so that the U.S. can be a leader and we as Americans can do what we always do - rise to the challenge and move with great purpose to solve this crisis. I challenge industry to be leaders, and be a helpful partner in reducing our carbon emissions going forward.

I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses. Thank you again, and I yield back the balance of my time.