

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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Media Contacts: Zachary Kurz
(202) 225-6371

**Statement of Energy Subcommittee Chairman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)
Hearing on Fusion Energy: The World's Most Complex Energy Project**

Chairman Lummis: Good morning. In an effort to ensure that all Members are able to ask their questions I will keep my statement brief.

I would like to welcome everyone to today's hearing on the Department of Energy's Fusion Energy Sciences program, specifically focusing on the United States' participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, also known as "ITER."

Today, the Energy Subcommittee will discuss the projected costs and schedule associated with ITER as well as the massive potential that fusion energy represents. This project is one of the most complex scientific and engineering undertakings in history – and as we will hear today, ITER has and continues to face management challenges, lacks a credible schedule, and the United States' program needs a reliable budget.

This Committee has an oversight responsibility to ensure that the United States efficiently accomplishes its obligations in accordance with the ITER agreement -- and that the ITER organization continues to remain a solid investment.

We have an excellent panel of witnesses to testify on the history, challenges, and proposed solutions associated with ITER. I want to thank the witnesses for participating in today's hearing and look forward to their testimony.