

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL (R-TX)**  
**Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology**  
*Research and Development Aspects of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget*  
Thursday, May 14, 2009  
2318 Rayburn Office Building

Thank you Chairman Gordon for calling this hearing to review the Administration's FY 2010 Research and Development (R&D) Budget and related science and technology policy priorities.

Dr. Holdren, I would like to welcome you here today and congratulate you on your appointment as President Obama's Science Advisor and Director of OSTP. As you probably know, this Committee has long had a close and productive working relationship with OSTP. I hope and expect that relationship to continue under your leadership in the new Administration, and I look forward to working with you.

Today's hearing obviously covers a great deal of ground, so I will make just a few brief comments on the budget that the President delivered to us last week—one positive, one negative, and one that is a big question mark.

First of all, the positive: Dr. Holdren, I want to commend you and President Obama for continuing the commitment initiated by President Bush and this Committee in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress -- and enacted by the last Congress in the America COMPETES Act -- to double funding in key areas of basic research most important to innovation and long-term economic competitiveness. This has long been a priority of mine and Chairman Gordon as well as others on this Committee, so for you to pick up where the last Administration left off truly cements this as an issue with deep bipartisan support. This will undoubtedly make our goal of achieving the doubling significantly easier.

Second, the negative: I am very concerned about the direction of our human spaceflight program at NASA. While NASA has made tremendous progress over the past five years, it is still on a path to retire the Space Shuttle without having developed its replacement vehicle and launch capabilities. Further, this budget reduces the out-year funding for the Constellation system by more than \$3 billion, and even though we are more than a hundred days into the Administration, the President has still not appointed a head of NASA. Dr. Holdren, I recognize and appreciate that you have ordered a review of human spaceflight plans, and I commend you for tapping Norm Augustine to head that review, but I have to register my strong concern with both the budget gap and the leadership gap at NASA, and I hope you will work to close both as soon as possible.

Third, the question mark: As we all know, just two weeks ago, President Obama announced to great fanfare a goal to devote “more than 3 percent of our gross domestic product to research and development.” This is an aggressive goal that warrants full consideration by this Committee and others.

Unfortunately though, the budget and testimony before us today include no mention of it whatsoever, so I hope to learn from Dr. Holdren the details regarding how and when the administration plans to achieve the goal, especially since the President’s R&D budget request for next year is essentially flat.

Last, I want to take the opportunity to reiterate my concerns with the direction the President is taking us on energy policy, which of course includes a significant S&T component with which this Committee is involved. From actively opposing expanded energy exploration and production, to cutting funding for fossil fuels R&D, to aggressively pursuing increased taxes

through a “cap and trade” regime—the costs of which are massive and certain while the benefits are minimal and highly uncertain—I am afraid the new Administration has come out of the gate with its energy policy on backwards. Dr. Holdren, I know you will be a key player in the White House in forming and advancing this policy as we go forward, so I am eager to work closely with you to identify some areas where we can work together. And maybe I can even help to change your mind on some things.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing. I look forward to a productive discussion.