

**Opening Statement**  
**Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis (R-SC)**  
**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Energy Storage Technologies: State of Development for Stationary and Vehicular Applications*

October 3, 2007

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on the status of technologies that can accelerate the arrival of clean, renewable energy.

General Electric manufactures wind turbines in South Carolina's Fourth District. Inside the facility, as soon as one of these nacelles is finished, it's put on a truck and shipped out. GE tells me that that production line isn't slowing down. In fact, they're trying to add production capacity to meet increased demand.

These wind turbines, and other technologies, such as solar panels and vehicle batteries, can speed the growth of our renewable energy sector. But the energy storage question is a significant hurdle that stands in the way. There's no doubt that we can cross that hurdle, and there's no question that it will be worth it. Getting over that hurdle means not just clean exhaust from our cars, but consistent and stable energy supply to the grid, even when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. That kind of reliability is what is necessary before these sources become a commercially viable alternative to oil and gas, both at our power plants, and in our cars and trucks.

I'm looking forward to learning from these two expert panels how the federal government can help clear the energy storage hurdle.

In addition, I'm also interested in fuel cells as "batteries." I'll return to that in my questions.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.