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**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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**Opening Statement of**  
**The Honorable Doug Lamborn**  
**Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing On**  
**HR 1229 "Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act",**  
**HR 1230 "Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act"**  
**and HR 1231 "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act"**  
**April 6, 2011**

Today, we will examine the first bills before this Committee under the American Energy Initiative. These bills introduced by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings are the first steps in reforming our domestic energy policies to set us forward on a new path of expanding production of our nation's resources. The purpose of the American Energy Initiative is to stop Washington policies that are driving up gasoline prices and expand American energy production to help lower costs, create jobs and generate revenue. These "bite size" proposals meet the goal of the Speaker to avoid the complicated and comprehensive 300 or 1000 page bills that have been done in the past.

Specifically, the three bills we are considering today are HR 1229, "Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act" that will establish a requirement for a permit to drill in statute and require safety review; HR 1230, the "Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act" that will resume Outer Continental Shelf lease sales delayed or canceled by the Obama Administration; And HR 1231 the "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act.". When the Administration took office in 2009, there was a proposed 2010-2015 OCS plan on the table.

This Administration immediately scrapped that plan, and delayed the development of a new plan by two years. This delay period is where we are now with rising gasoline prices and declining production in the OCS.

While these bills deal directly with our oil and natural gas policies, these bills will not be the last word from this Subcommittee. In the months ahead, the Subcommittee will continue to focus on expanding renewable energy, onshore oil, natural gas and mineral production, coal and other critical minerals that are vital to renewable energy and new technology.

The Subcommittee will consider future "bite size" proposals that generate more energy, create jobs, and more revenue for the federal government offered by members on either of the side of the isle.

When Congress talks about creating jobs you will hear various proposals from differing sides, often trying to pick and choose those favored industries that should be creating jobs, but we should work to ensure that as many industries and sectors of our economy are creating jobs. Many seem to think that renewables and oil and gas are an either or equation, but the truth is we can and should do both.

Off the coast of Virginia there is no reason we can't proceed forward with an aggressive program of wind development, promoting responsible oil and natural gas development, while at the same time ensuring that the defense, fishing and tourism jobs that exist today are protected. There is no one right choice in this recipe we must chose to do all these things. And doing so can have a tremendous benefit for the American people; just the offshore oil and gas development is projected to create more than a million new jobs all across America.

But resource development isn't just about drilling everywhere. We must develop our resources where the resources are. This simple concept seems to elude many people, but I believe it is one the America people understand.

Last year, during the height of the BP disaster, the American people were wondering why we are drilling in deeper and deeper water which is more risky. The reason is simple, that is where the oil is located. But that isn't the only place our oil resources are, it is just the only place we are allowing drilling to take place. America has vast oil resources in the OCS of Alaska and off the coast of California in shallow water. And at a shallower depth under the earth, these resources are significantly easier to develop and produce and present less risk to the people and environment.

Finally, these bills are also about raising revenue for the federal government. In 2008, bonus bids and rentals from the OCS totaled nearly \$10 billion, in FY2011 the budget estimate is \$150 million, a decline of \$9.85 billion. This tremendous decline is because as a result of decisions made by this Administration not to hold any lease sales in the OCS in 2011, the first time that has happened since passage of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in 1957.

The bills before us today are the first steps in an aggressive energy agenda this Committee will address to help make America more energy secure, create jobs and generate revenue to help us balance our budget.