

# **Republican Leader Rob Bishop Opening Statement**

## **As Prepared for Delivery**

I know the majority has designated this “Climate Change Month,” but in the second week of Black History Month, I just want to commemorate the contributions of the African American community and highlight the numerous African American heritage sites protected by the National Park Service – which suffer from more than 41 million dollars worth of deferred maintenance. As I’ve strongly advocated for before – with you Mr. Chairman, on a bipartisan basis – we need to ensure that these historic heritage sites and parks are well maintained, and I hope since this is well-within the purview and jurisdiction of this Committee, that we continue to focus on these immediate issues at hand. Under my chairmanship, we advocated for the establishment of the Medgar Evers Home National Monument, Camp Nelson National Monument, the African American Civil Rights Network, and the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site, among others. We also pushed for the expansion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. As chairman, I also supported to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation grant program. I wish we were speaking more about these types of important issues that actually fall within this Committee’s jurisdiction.

Now, back to climate change, I'm curious to see how this fits in this Committee's jurisdiction. I will mention that it would have been a bit easier, if not at least more transparent, if the majority would have continued the long tradition of publishing a hearing memo, per Rule 4(c) of our Committee's Rules – so that not just the Republicans – but also the public, could understand the purpose of the hearing. That being said, I want to preemptively thank the Chairman for what I hope is going to be a hearing focused on solutions and not just empty rhetoric and fear mongering. I hope we don't just try to play politics and make headlines. Speaking for Republicans, our goal is to fix problems by finding sensible solutions and encouraging innovation. A vocal group of new members of Congress has called for a so-called Green New Deal. Nobody seems to know exactly what the deal is, but a variety of outside special interest groups seem to have a lot of their own ideas. What is clear is that a move to 100 percent "clean" energy by 2030 is estimated to eliminate 88 percent of current energy sources and the almost 6 million jobs related to those sources. It is also clear that this would come at a cost of a minimum of 13.4 trillion dollars. Additionally, some groups call for cutting defense spending by "at least" 50 percent and for the United States to close all overseas bases. That would come at a cost of approximately 1.4 million military and civilian jobs lost.

These are only a couple of the possible pieces of the Green New Deal. The federal government banning most private cars, creating a jobs guarantee for 20 million people, and shutting down non-renewable energy companies do not sound like sensible solutions. We should encourage more State, local, and private sector efforts and encourage innovative ideas to address pollution. The important question today is not whether or not we are all going to die in 12 years. We won't. The important question today is what are the practical ways we can reduce pollution, promote a healthier environment, and not decimate the American taxpayers and families' check books.

If you recall, Mr. Chairman, that is precisely one of the reasons our side of the aisle submitted two amendments to our Committee rules to ensure that Committee reports include the impact of legislation on the economy in the immediate geographic area affected by the legislation as determined by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The idea behind these amendments did receive some supportive words from the other side during discussion, but ultimately failed on partisan lines. I hope today's hearing and the remaining subcommittee hearings on this subject stay within this Committee's jurisdiction, but also provide some balanced and genuine dialogue on what sensible solutions

exist for the agencies within our jurisdiction to address good environmental stewardship.