

## **Rep. Grace F. Napolitano Opening Statement 4-5-2011**

Good morning. This hearing focuses on the indirect and direct regulations that affect the Bureau of Reclamation. This hearing also specially focuses on the impacts of regulations to the agricultural community.

We agree that we need to find a balance to ensure that regulations protect the safety and health of the public and the environment while allowing for job growth. This is one of the goals outlined in President Obama's Executive Order and we support the Administration's ongoing efforts on regulatory review and job creation.

Regulations, when done right, help to provide a framework for partnership and collaboration. There are many instances across the west of stakeholders partnering together to achieve the goals of sustaining agriculture as well as improving our environment.

These partnerships were done not at the expense of one party or the environment, but in a collaborative manner that allows for water deliveries and power production, while minimizing and mitigating the risks to the environment. Regulations should also not be a one sided game where have to choose between the farmer who provides our food, and the salmon fisherman who also makes his living depending on the same water resource.

It has been mentioned that some of these regulations are decades old, reflecting a different time. These regulations may need some reviewing, and we support those efforts. What has not changed is how we as a country put in place these regulations because we value our clean air, clean water and our public's safety.

We have an even more important task of leaving the next generation with cleaner air, cleaner water, and a healthier environment than what we found, and do so in a way that allows for job growth.

We look forward to hearing from our witnesses, thank you for being here today.