

**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Edward J. Markey**  
**Natural Resources Committee Oversight Hearing**  
**“American Energy Initiative: Identifying Roadblocks to Wind and Solar Energy on Public  
Lands and Waters, Part II - The Wind and Solar Industry Perspective”**

June 1, 2011

**First of all, I’d like to welcome back our  
Chairman today. I know it has been a difficult  
couple of weeks for you and your family. Our  
thoughts and prayers have been with you, and we  
are happy to have you back.**

**As we heard 2 weeks ago in Part 1 of this hearing,  
the Obama Interior Department has made  
renewable energy development on public lands a  
top priority.**

**I know there has been a lot of talk about moratoriums here in this committee, but the Republican Majority is ignoring the real moratorium they protected for years: the Bush-Cheney clean energy moratorium.**

**During the 8 years of the Bush administration, a grand total of zero permits were issued for solar power plants and only 5 wind projects were approved. Renewable energy development was almost exclusively a private land endeavor, leaving untapped some of our best renewable resources on federal lands. Under the Obama administration, that has changed.**

**The 3,800 megawatts of wind and solar projects permitted in 2010 alone under this administration is 13 times more than what was**

**permitted during the entire 8 years of the Bush administration.**

**When the Bush administration was blocking these permits, and locking up federal lands to clean energy development, where were the Republicans then?**

**Republicans want to criticize the Obama administration, when it was actually Republican policies that stymied renewable energy development. Talk about ignoring the elephant in the room!**

**I'm happy to see this recent progress under the Obama administration, but I am deeply**

**concerned about current Republican policies directly aimed at rolling it back.**

**While Republicans fight to keep each of the oil and gas industry's 8 different tax subsidies, they stand ready to let the highly successful 1603 [sixteen oh three] renewable energy program expire in 7 months. That financing program saved tens of thousands of jobs during the economic downturn, and helped put new energy on the grid.**

**Demonstrating that there is apparently never an inappropriate time to give an assist to Big Oil, Republican leadership has scheduled a vote for later this week in which the critically necessary emergency aid to tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri is dependent upon defunding a program**

**that helps American companies manufacture super-efficient and clean-fuel vehicles.**

**This is not an “All of the Above Strategy” but an “Oil Above All” strategy taken straight from the Bush-Cheney playbook.**

**There is much at stake here, and it goes far beyond the environmental and public health benefits of renewable energy. The clean energy sector represents one of the most important opportunities to generate economic growth and new good-paying jobs for the next generation of Americans. [CHART]**

**Those benefits will not come with subsidizing Big Oil. Despite \$485 billion in profits over the last 5**

**years, ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, and Chevron reduced their U.S. workforce by more than 10,000 people. [CHART]**

**It's not happening with coal. Even with U.S. coal production increasing 600 percent since 1950, employment in coal mining has fallen from 416,000 to fewer than 88,000. [CHART]**

**And those resources are becoming more expensive and scarcer with nearly every passing year.**

**The trends with renewable energy are in the opposite direction. Costs are going down and employment is going up. Advanced technologies that utilize the free fuel of the wind, the sun, and the earth will ultimately win out. A \$12 trillion market awaits the technology leaders that can do**

**it most effectively. But the Republican assault on clean, domestic energy production is making it increasingly likely that those technology leaders will not be American, but Chinese, German, and Korean.**

**Using our rich public lands as a launching pad for the clean energy sector is about as close to a home run as we get in public policy. I am pleased that the committee is taking a deeper look at the issue here today, and I hope that we can find a bipartisan way to circle the bases together.**

**Thank you. I look forward to our witness's testimony.**