



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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OPENING STATEMENT OF JIM SAXTON

***Joint Hearing with Readiness Subcommittee on Alternative Energy and Energy
Efficiency Programs of the Department of Defense***

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Subcommittee will hold a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Readiness on the alternative energy and energy efficiency programs of the Department of Defense (DoD). We will also have an opportunity to learn about options to affect both energy supply and demand, in order to foster lasting energy security, which is a key component to national security.

Energy security and conservation of natural resources are cross-cutting issues of great concern to many members of this Committee. In fact, we received a bipartisan request, signed by more than twenty members of this Committee, requesting this hearing. As the single largest consumer of petroleum fuels in the United States, the military has an opportunity to serve as an early adopter of alternative fuel sources and to offer a certain level of market assurance to alternative fuel suppliers. Nevertheless, DoD's fuel usage represents less than 2% of the total fuel usage in the United States. Therefore, we must set realistic expectations. The Department of Defense alone cannot shoulder the responsibility for formulating and implementing a national strategy, nor can it drive the market. However, it is appropriate for the Department to exercise a leadership role in this area and, likewise, for this Committee to exercise appropriate oversight of those efforts.

This hearing follows a brief we had on the subject in June. These activities are intended to be the early steps in a multi-phased oversight effort, with regard to investments in and utilization of alternative energy and energy-efficiency technologies within the Department of Defense. Our first panel of witnesses will provide the building blocks for a greater understanding of:

- The steps taken by the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive energy security strategy,
- How the Air Force, as the largest user of fuel within the U.S. Government, is actively conducting research, development, test and evaluation of alternative fuels in order to reduce dependency on foreign oil and to maintain assured mobility, and
- How the Department procures and distributes fuel and the Defense Energy Support Center's efforts to assess the current conditions of the synthetic fuels market.

The second panel of witnesses will share non-government perspectives on:

- The Department of Defense' efforts to incorporate energy efficiency, renewable and distributed energy programs,
- Non-traditional options for increasing energy supply, and
- Options for incentivizing federal contractors to incorporate energy efficiency into government programs, in order to reduce energy demand in the federal sector.

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