

**Opening Statement of
Ranking Member Brad Miller
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
Hearing on:
Tapping America's Energy Potential Through Research and Development
November 30, 2012**

The lesson for today's hearing is from the Book of Matthew: "For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have in abundance, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." Or as many Americans put it more colloquially, them that has, gets.

That has certainly been the Republican policy on energy research.

Our efforts to assist emerging energy technologies like solar, geothermal, wind, and technologies to make our energy use more efficient are considered "green pork" to House Republicans. They have opposed efforts by the Department of Energy to promote research, demonstration projects, and commercialization of emerging technologies as "picking winners and losers." The Republican's Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2012, gave deeply principled reasons for opposition to government investment in emerging energy technologies: "Fundamentally, the act of providing individual firms with government money for the purpose of commercializing profitable technology is an inappropriate intervention in the market that may crowd out or discourage a greater amount of private investment."

So for emerging technologies that have not the economic and political power of incumbent fossil-fuel and nuclear technologies, even what they have will be taken away.

But incumbent technologies, which are already enormously profitable, will be given more, and will have in abundance, with none of the navel-gazing discussion about picking winners and losers or inappropriate interventions in the market.

The incumbent technologies have benefited from government subsidies for generations, including funding for research. Hydraulic fracturing is the combination of technologies developed by federally-funded research. We will obviously continue to depend on fossil fuel technologies for most of our energy well into the future. Many Democrats, including me, have supported government funding for fossil fuels research, and will likely support this legislation as well. The section of Chairman Hall's legislation on "produced water" is almost identical to legislation passed by the Democratic majority in the last Congress.

The industries and yes, the specific "individual firms" that will benefit most directly from this legislation, already have far more public and private investment in applied research and commercialization of technologies than do firms developing alternative energy technologies, some of which may dramatically alter our energy future and some of which will never be commercially viable. Even more important, continued support in abundance for incumbent technologies, often to the

exclusion of alternative technologies, continues to base our energy future almost exclusively on hunting fossil fuels to extinction, leaving us woefully unprepared for our longer-term energy needs.

Mr. Chairman, I suspect that most Democrats will support this legislation if it comes to a vote, but I hope that Republicans will consider the arguments in support of this legislation as arguments for a truly “all of the above” energy policy.

I yield back the balance of my time.