

OPENING STATEMENT

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen

Chairman

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

House Committee on Appropriations

Office of Science

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request

March 16, 2011

Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call this hearing to order.

We have before us today Dr. Steven Koonin, Undersecretary for Science, to discuss the Department's fiscal year 2012 request for the Office of Science.

This subcommittee has long been a strong supporter of the Office of Science. I think everyone up here would agree that basic energy-related science is a core mandate of the Department. Much of the work that you and your associates perform every day is crucial for keeping our nation at the forefront of global technology and science.

As I have mentioned at all of our hearings this year, I want everyone who appears before this subcommittee to understand that it is highly unlikely there will be any new funding in fiscal year 2012 for our subcommittee. Our subcommittee must do its part to reduce spending and bring down our deficit.

Our task this year is really no different than any other year, however – we must find the right balance of investments into our most critical needs, with an eye towards those that protect our nation, and support and improve our economy and add jobs.

Dr. Koonin, your office has enjoyed record increases in recent years. If we were to appropriate your budget as requested, the Office of Science would increase by \$1.4 billion since fiscal year 2008, a 35% increase. Increases such as these, as important as they may be, aren't going to occur.

Since they will not, we must work together to determine what are your top priorities, in every account. I am sure you will share them with us this morning.

Dr. Koonin, please ensure that the hearing record, the questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the subcommittee are delivered in final form to the subcommittee no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. Members who have additional questions for the record will have until close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

At this point, I'll turn to Mr. Pastor for any comments he may have.