

**Opening Statement: Chairman Michael Simpson**

**FY 2012 EPA Oversight Hearing**

**GAO and EPA Inspector General**

March 2, 2011 (9:30 am)

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Good morning. And welcome to our second oversight hearing this week. Today we plan to discuss Major Management Challenges at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Government Accountability Office (the GAO) and the EPA Inspector General have identified a number of barriers to the effective implementation of the EPA's mission and responsibilities through past audits, investigations and evaluations.

These barriers can be either self-imposed, internal constraints – such as workforce management – that the Agency may have the ability to address, or they may prove to be external challenges outside the control of the Agency – including one area that I have long had questions about: the lack of a government-wide coordinated approach to climate change.

We welcome the testimony from the GAO and the EPA Inspector General today and look forward to an honest conversation about their findings and next steps that either the EPA or the Congress should take in order to address these shortcomings.

I am pleased to be joined by our Ranking member, Mr. Moran. Would you like to share any opening remarks?

[Moran opening remarks]

Thank you. The subcommittee is allocating 15 minutes each to the GAO and the IG witnesses so they can adequately outline their concerns for Members, after which we will follow with Member questions. We will first hear from Mr. David Trimble, Acting

Director of Natural Resources and Environment group at GAO. Mr. Trimble will be followed by Mr. Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., the EPA's Inspector General. Thank you both for being here today. Please share with us your findings of Major Management Challenges for the EPA.