



CONGRESSMAN ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES

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Opening Statement of Chairman Alan B. Mollohan
Status of Climate Change Science

Good morning, Dr. Solomon, and welcome before the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee. We appreciate you coming today to provide your perspective on the status of the scientific understanding of climate change and predictions.

As those responsible for appropriations for the federal agencies with the largest budgets for climate change science – NSF, NASA, and NOAA – we want to ensure that we provide appropriate support for improved understanding, monitoring and prediction of climate change.

We also have responsibility for virtually all civil Earth observing satellites, both research and operational. We have had to confront major cost over-runs in the NPOESS program, and additional requirements appear likely given the anticipated need to support operational climate predictions and monitoring. In our hearings this week we will explore the role of satellite data in observing climate change. Our second and third hearings will focus on examples of on-going satellite observations of land vegetation, ice sheets, ocean and atmosphere properties and what is required to sustain these critical environmental records. Our final hearing will look forward to the future of satellite climate observations and the relationship between NASA and NOAA – between research and operations – and how that may be a help in controlling future costs.

Today, we look forward to establishing a foundation for our satellite considerations by gaining more understanding of climate change and the requirements its study and observation place upon the programs in our jurisdiction.

Dr. Solomon, your written statement will be placed in the record, but before I ask for your oral testimony, I recognize Mr. Wolf, ranking member of the subcommittee, for his opening statement.