

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

Subcommittee on the Interior

Opening Statement Rep. Brenda Lawrence, Ranking Member

Hearing on April 22, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
“DOE Management of the Excess Uranium Inventory”

Madam Chairwoman, I thank you for holding this hearing. I also want to thank our witnesses for their testimony today.

One of the core missions of this committee is to oversee the proper stewardship of government assets. Today we will be focusing our attention on an important asset, uranium, managed by the Department of Energy.

It is important that the Energy Department be able to sell or swap uranium in order to support objectives of the agency. Selling uranium to nuclear power plants and swapping uranium in exchange for environmental clean-up activities are both necessary uses of excess uranium. However, the Agency must be careful that all of its uranium transactions are carried out in accordance with the law.

I am pleased that GAO and the Department are both here to help us understand more about the laws pertaining to past and future uranium transfers. If Congress needs to resolve different interpretations of the laws, now is the time to let us know so we can begin that process.

It is also critical that we maintain a robust domestic uranium industry, which is particularly important to Wyoming and Utah, where the bulk of uranium in the U.S. is mined.

The Department's decisions must be backed by sound market studies on whether any particular sale or transfer would have a negative impact on our domestic uranium industry.

Let us all keep an open mind to the testimony that will be offered today and use the information productively in the future.

Contact: Jennifer Hoffman, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.