Opening Statement
Linda Ann Capuano
Nomination Hearing
United States Senate
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, distinguished members of the Committee it is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today as the nominee for Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA). I am grateful to the President and to Secretary Perry for their confidence in trusting me with this important assignment.

Created by Congress in 1977, EIA is the statistical and analytical agency of the Department of Energy. It collects and disseminates a wide range of energy information covering energy production, stocks, demand, imports, exports, prices, technologies and emissions. EIA's mission is to provide policy neutral data, forecasts and analysis to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets and public understanding regarding energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment. EIA also prepares short term forecasts, long term projections and other analyses and special reports on topics of current interest to Congress and to the executive branch. By law EIA prepares products independently of policy positions taken within the Federal Government. As such, it is the Nation's premier source of unbiased energy data, analysis and forecasting.

As a researcher and analyst, I appreciate the importance of EIA's independent role in providing unbiased information and analysis to inform policymakers, markets and members of the public in making informed energy decisions across the public and private sectors. If confirmed by the Senate, I will bring to the position the experience of a career that began with applying materials science and engineering to products in computer memory, semiconductors and power units, and evolved to a focus on energy in the electricity and petroleum sectors.

My early academic training in chemistry and chemical engineering at S.U.N.Y. (Stony Brook) and the University of Colorado Boulder led to my first professional position at IBM where my responsibilities included design specifications, statistical process control and product performance. My doctorate at Stanford University included work in statistical multivariate and trend analysis, which, combined with my financial modeling and forecasting experience as CFO of Conductus Inc., a Silicon Valley startup, as well as General Manager at Honeywell Aerospace has given me sufficient practical experience in applied economics and statistics to make me familiar with the discipline and techniques of the work required by the EIA.

My early background naturally led to my focus on energy. I have served on the boards of the California Independent System Operator (2007-10) and Peak Reliability since 2013. Peak provides real-time, interconnection-wide oversight of the Bulk Electricity System (BES) within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) footprint, and coordinates necessary real-time and seasonal planning and modeling and ensures that data critical to the reliable and efficient grid operation is shared appropriately. I also led the technology organization at Marathon Oil Corporation (2008-2013), an energy company engaged in exploration and production and integrated oil and gas operations.

In 2012, I had the opportunity to participate on the National Petroleum Council report "Advancing Technology for America's Transportation Future." As chair of the coordinating subcommittee, I worked closely with some of the highly skilled and dedicated people at EIA. That experience gave me a view into the complexity of EIA's work in gathering information that links the transportation and energy sectors, especially with so many individual entities involved.

My experiences in the energy sector over the past decade have made me acutely aware of how critical information is to the country's economy. To take just one example, the nation's grid involves the coordination of many entities, technologies and fuels across multiple state boundaries.

I have also spent my career planning for and managing change. The rapidity with which technology is changing everything from the production of oil and gas to the integration of distributed generation, including storage technologies and microgrids, is a challenge for EIA that I am eager to embrace.

I understand the important roles that all of our fuels play in delivering energy to consumers. I have been impressed with EIA's ability to engage in developing information and reporting on the dramatic change in our oil and natural gas outlook, including starting an innovative approach to assessing productivity. I understand that other areas of EIA work were directly requested by this Committee, such as analysis of energy and financial markets and the energy consumption surveys of commercial and residential buildings. These programs would remain a priority under my leadership. If confirmed, I would fully support the innovations already made by EIA and would continue to seek new methods and tools to streamline and improve data collection and dissemination.

EIA has and will play an important role in communicating energy information and increasing public understanding at all levels. There are important challenges for the Energy Information Administration in this dynamic energy environment and I look forward to leading this distinguished organization to set and achieve goals. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Committee on these and other matters.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.