OPENING STATEMENT
Sen. Cory Gardner
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy
September 12, 2017

The Subcommittee will come to order.

Good afternoon, everyone. Today the Subcommittee on Energy will hold its second hearing in the 115th Congress. I enjoy the opportunity to work with the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Senator Manchin, to address key topics in Energy.

During today's hearing, we will take a deeper look into the Department of Energy National Laboratory system. In 2015, the Council to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories stated that the 17 labs of the DOE "are national assets that have contributed profoundly to the Nation's security, scientific leadership, and economic competitiveness." I am excited to hear much more about these outcomes today.

The constellation of national labs was born from our desire to harness nuclear energy. Through today's discussion, I suspect our witnesses will enlighten us on the dramatic transformations that the lab system has taken over the last 70 years to continually address our nation's biggest challenges and be leaders on the global stage.

The US has been the leader in R&D for years but China is close at our heals in research spending. How we choose to invest in our national labs and support the scientists within them is critical going forward.

Today I hope to hear more about what has been accomplished with the world-leading unique facilities we've developed so far and insights into how our laboratories incubate creative experts responsible for life-changing outcomes.

Our national labs harnessed nuclear power. They showed us how to draw energy from the sun and the wind. Medical imaging was made possible by national labs materials discovery. They've continued to push the limits of computational power and software tools to analyze the most difficult problems to keep us all safe both from nuclear weapons and even in the cars we drive.

National labs are truly a "catalyst". The ability of national labs to encourage innovation, foster collaboration, and accelerate outcomes results in significant value and impact.

I expect our witnesses today can probably teach us a thing or two about {catalysis} science. Beyond that, I definitely look forward to hearing them elaborate on the discovery environment within the labs and examples of results providing societal value.

I believe the national labs have demonstrated a great ability to delivery on science over several generations and administrations, and will continue to enhance the lives of millions of Americans.

I would like to welcome our four witnesses,

Dr. Brian Anderson
Director of the West Virginia University Energy Institute

Dr. Paul Kearns
Interim Laboratory Director at Argonne National Laboratory

Ms. Anuja Ratnayake
Director of Emerging Technology Strategy at Duke Energy

Dr. Bill Tumas
Associate Laboratory Director for Materials and Chemical Science and Technology at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

I will now turn to Ranking Member Manchin for his introductory remarks.