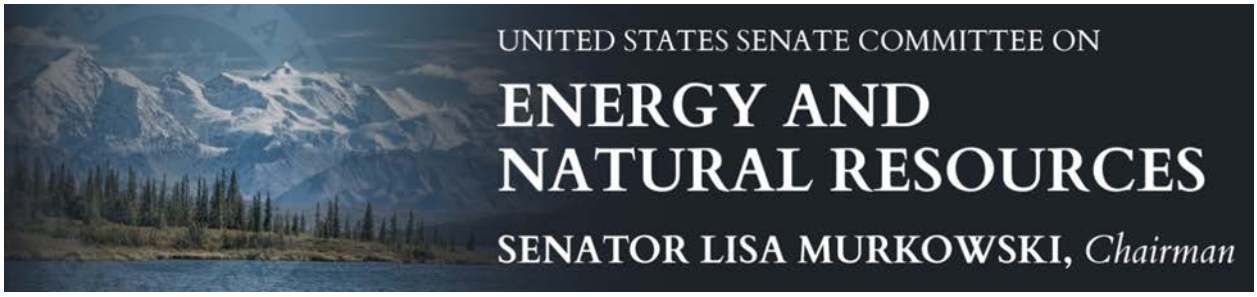

Sen. Jim Risch
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy
Hearing on S. 3018 entitled
"Securing Energy Infrastructure Act"

Opening Statement
July 12, 2016

Good afternoon, everyone. The Subcommittee will come to order. To our panelists, I want to thank you for taking time to be here and testify.

The purpose of today's hearing is to receive testimony on S. 3018, the *Securing Energy Infrastructure Act*, and to examine protections designed to guard against grid disruptions.

In the United States, too we often take our grid's dependability and security for granted—as you scan across the globe, no other network is able to provide as much reliable and affordable power as our American grid system.

Far too often, it is not until the lights go dark, that we truly take time to consider the grid. It is only *after* a disruption that we consider how to prevent them.

That being said, we recently were given an opportunity to critically think about and examine the American grid before a disruption actually occurred. On December 23, 2015, a regional electricity distribution company in the Ukraine experienced a cyber-intrusion that led to service outages for 225,000 customers.

While this attack occurred on our European ally, be assured, that the threats are just as real for our own critical infrastructure.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the cyber-attack was specifically coordinated to target the Ukrainian power grid's industrial control systems—control systems that act as the intermediary between computers and switches that distribute electricity. However, the attack could have been far worse if not for the fact that Ukraine relies on manual technology to operate its grid.

Within our own country, critical infrastructures, particularly the industrial control systems used in water management, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power distribution, and mass transit, are enticing targets to actors who would want to do us harm. Top officials within the power, intelligence, and defense communities have warned us that the United States remains vulnerable to cyber-attacks. And more

importantly, these cyber-attacks could result in catastrophic damage to public health and safety, economic security, and national security.

That's why in June, Senators King, Collins, Heinrich and I, introduced S. 3018, the *Securing Energy Infrastructure Act*. This legislation would establish a two-year pilot program within the National Laboratories to examine ways to replace automated systems with manual procedures to remove vulnerabilities that could allow cyber-criminals to access the grid through holes in digital software systems.

This legislation ensures that we take the necessary steps to defend ourselves against potentially catastrophic threats by establishing a coordinated effort to help protect essential infrastructures.

Specifically, partnering with our National Laboratories, the *Securing Energy Infrastructure Act* looks for ways to simplify our national infrastructure, thereby limiting opportunities for cyber-attacks.

I'm proud that solutions to many of these infrastructure and security challenges are being developed in my home state at the Idaho National Lab.

For those of you have not had the opportunity to visit the Idaho National Lab, it is a world leader in critical infrastructure and control systems research. Leading the reinvention of infrastructure security, the Lab is developing techniques that can account for both physical and cyber threats.

I have no doubt that INL's efforts will help ensure that our nation achieves an advantage in critical infrastructure and control systems security.

For today's hearing, we have Ms. Pat Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability with the Department of Energy, who will start us off with an overview of the Department of Energy's work protecting our grid from energy disruptions.

We have Mr. Duane D. Highley, President and CEO for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation. He is also co-chair of the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council.

We also have Mr. Rob Manning, Vice President of Transmission for the Electric Power Research Institute.

And to finish this panel this afternoon, from my home state, we have Mr. Brent Stacey, Associate Lab Director-National and Homeland S&T, Idaho National Lab, who is joining us today to discuss and highlight the important role of research in finding solutions to protect our grid from experiencing disruptions. As I previously mentioned, the Idaho National Lab is at the forefront of developing and testing innovative technologies with their Critical Infrastructure Test Range.

So, I welcome all of our panelists and I look forward to your presentations. I will now turn to Ranking Member Manchin.