

Secretary Steven Chu  
Introduction of President Obama  
Department of Energy  
Thursday, February 5, 2009

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Thank you all for joining us here today – a great day for the Department of Energy – as we hear from President Barack Obama.

Mr. President, it is my honor to welcome you to the Department of Energy.

The employees of the Department of Energy and our National Laboratories across the country are engaged in groundbreaking efforts to push the boundaries of science and implement new solutions to the challenges that now confront the nation.

We face an economic crisis unlike anything since the 1930s, and a climate crisis that is totally without precedent. History – and our fellow citizens – will judge us on how we respond.

We must not miss the rare and remarkable opportunity before us.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Agenda that President Obama has outlined will put our country back to work.

It will create new industries.

It will begin to transform the way we produce and use energy – recognizing that we must act now to address the global climate crisis.

As a scientist, I understand the seriousness of the economic and climate challenges we face. But I remain optimistic that scientific research will once again bring us transformative solutions.

Some of these technologies are already within our grasp, while others are yet to come. As the premiere science agency in the field, the Department of Energy will play a crucial role in developing those solutions and in helping them take hold in our nation's economy. The President's Economic Recovery plan will be a major step forward for these efforts, and we look forward to putting them into action.

At a time of great uncertainty in our economy, we are fortunate to have a leader who is willing to think and act boldly – and to challenge all Americans to join this effort to renew our nation.

Mr. President, it is my privilege to welcome you to a place that has been so welcoming to me.

Ladies and Gentlemen, President Barack Obama.