
EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE

Congressman George Miller, Chairman

Tuesday, March 31, 2009
Press Office, 202-226-0853

**Chairwoman Woolsey Statement At Subcommittee Hearing
On Green Jobs and their Role in our Economic Recovery**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Subcommittee for a subcommittee hearing on “Green Jobs and their Role in our Economic Recovery.”*

I want to thank everyone for attending this hearing on “Green Jobs and their Role in our Economic Recovery”

Green industry, green technology and green jobs are our future, and will play a key role in our economic recovery.

Today the economy is bad and millions of people are out of work.

In February, unemployment stood at over 8%, with workers in the construction sector taking the hardest hit.

But our President has taken bold action with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provides new resources and new momentum to create and maintain millions of jobs.

Green jobs are a top priority of the Recovery Act and at least \$500 million has been set aside for green job training.

The exciting news is that greening our economy will require workers in existing and traditional jobs as well.

We now have substantial evidence---some of which you will hear in testimony today---that green industries are revitalizing existing jobs that would have otherwise gone by the wayside.

I am confident that if we stay on course and encourage American ingenuity and innovation, we can emerge from this national recession stronger than we were before.

For this hearing today we intend to roll up our sleeves and address some very practical questions.

What is the broadest definition we can come up with for green jobs: a definition that truly captures the full potential of an emerging economy?

What factors drive growth in green jobs?

What are the skills that workers will need, and how do we build on existing skills?

And finally, what can we do to educate our future workforce for these jobs?

I know that detractors of the green revolution argue that the lack of a standard definition for green jobs is a reason not to commit money to it.

But that is a shortsighted viewpoint.

We may not have a precise consensus on a definition, but most of us can agree on certain principals.

We know that green jobs are real.

We know that green jobs enhance environmental quality, while creating good jobs right here at home.

And we know that a green economy will transform this country and the world.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and defer to ranking member price for his opening statement.

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