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TODD YOUNG

H.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, **DC** 20515

Opening Statement of
The Honorable Doug Lamborn
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman
Before the Full Committee Markup on:
H.R. 3407 The "Alaskan Energy for American Jobs Act"
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

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JEFFREY DUNCAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman, I present to the Committee H.R. 3407, the "Alaskan Energy for American Jobs Act". This bill was introduced by Chairman Hastings and Congressman Young on November 14, 2011, and on November 18 the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a legislative hearing on the bill.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) holds the single greatest potential for a new domestic energy within the United States. Responsibly developing a small portion of ANWR would generate a conservative estimate of \$150 billion in new revenue over the life of production and produce approximately 1.45 million barrels of oil per day. This is more than the U.S. imports daily from Saudi Arabia.

By opening up less than 3 percent of ANWR, we would guarantee a secure supply of energy for the United States and employ thousands of Americans in good-paying jobs.

In 1980, President Carter signed the *Alaska Interest Lands Conservation Act*, which set aside the North Slope of ANWR for energy production. In 1986 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that ANWR be opened for oil and natural gas development for the benefit of the country's economic and national security. For decades, Administrations of both parties have realized the economic security and energy potential of ANWR.

Of the 1.5 million acres in the North Slope, this legislation would open up only 40,000 acres to surface development. The remaining acreage would be accessible by horizontal drilling which, thanks to technological advancements, can cover a 28,000 foot radius from a single drilling platform. In summary, an area larger than the size of Washington, D.C. can be accessed from a platform that covers less than 9 acres.

The extensive environmental protections afforded in this legislation will ensure the environmentally responsible development of ANWR. It allows the Secretary to close off 45,000 acres as environmentally special areas and requires multiple certifications that development results in no adverse effects on fish and wildlife. It also set strict limits on surface occupancy and facility siting to avoid springs, streams and rivers. In fact, of the 25 pages of this legislation, nearly half of it is dedicated to environmental protections. This Committee has heard testimony

from both residents and state government officials attesting to the certainty of the ability to develop ANWR in an environmentally responsible manner.

Furthermore, this legislation would ensure the continued operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline – which is absolutely vital for our energy security and the future of Alaska.

Opening up ANWR to exploration is supported by the majority of Alaskans who understand the jobs and economic benefits it would provide. The energy industry in Alaska brings education, healthcare, and even running water to the small communities of Alaska. It employs thousands of Alaskans and is a vital part of the Alaskan economy.

This legislation would allow us to access one of the greatest energy resources in the United States. It would provide billions of dollars in federal revenue, contribute to our energy security and provide tens of thousands of Americans with jobs. In 1980 President Jimmy Carter realized the economic and energy potential ANWR's North Slope held for our country – it is time the Congress do the same. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

DOC HASTINGS, WA CHAIRMAN DON YOUNG, AK JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN LOUIE GOHMERT, TX ROB BISHOP, UT DOUG LAMBORN, CO ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA PAUL C. BROUN, GA JOHN FLEMING, LA MIKE COFFMAN, CO TOM McCLINTOCK, CA GLENN THOMPSON, PA JEFF DENHAM, CA DAN BENISHEK, MI DAVID RIVERA FI JEFF DUNCAN, SC SCOTT R. TIPTON, CO PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ RAÚL R. LABRADOR. ID KRISTI L. NOEM, SD STEVE SOUTHERLAND II, FL BILL FLORES TX ANDY HARRIS, MD JEFFREY M. LANDRY, LA JON RUNYAN, NJ BILL JOHNSON OH MARK AMODEI, NV

TODD YOUNG CHIEF OF STAFF

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Opening Statement of
The Honorable Doug Lamborn
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman
Before the Full Committee Markup on:

H.R. 3408 The "Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security Act." (PIONEERS)

Mr. Chairman, I present to the Committee H.R. 3408, the "Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security Act," or "PIONEERS Act". I introduced this bill on November 14, 2011, and on November 18 the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a legislative hearing on the bill.

Oil Shale is one of the most promising new sources of American-made energy. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the Western United States holds more than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil – six times Saudi Arabia's proven resources. This could be enough to provide the United States with energy for the next 200 years, and some estimates indicate that a few hundred thousand American jobs would be created with the development of this industry.

Unfortunately, inconsistent and combative policies of the Obama Administration have essentially all but halted America's research and development of this promising domestic resource. Due to this regulatory uncertainty, companies aspiring to develop oil shale have left the United States, bound for countries with clearer rules and less burdensome federal regulations.

Today you will hear opponents argue that this legislation attempts to promote technology that isn't proven. However, the exact opposite is true. While the American oil shale industry is forced overseas, other nations profit from this Administration's contentious policies and as a result, countries like Jordan, China, and Estonia have very robust oil shale industries.

You will also hear opponents argue that oil shale poses a risk to water supplies in the West. As a representative from Colorado, I fully understand the water issues facing my home state. As technology progresses, we have learned that energy development and water management can be complimentary, as both the commonly used hydraulic fracturing and biofuels production use large quantities of water and both industries have successfully expanded on a commercial scale in the United States. Furthermore, the Department of Energy estimates that new technology allows oil shale to be developed with one to three barrels of water per barrel of oil.

Our nation is abundant in oil shale resources and these resources can be an important component of America's energy future. My legislation removes the uncertainty from oil shale development

and opens up land for both research and commercial development of oil shale. It will create consistent policies that the industry can rely on to move forward, contribute to our energy security, and create good paying American jobs for thousands of Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

DOC HASTINGS, WA CHAIRMAN
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TODD YOUNG

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources Washington, DC 20515

Opening Statement of
The Honorable Doug Lamborn
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman
Before the Full Committee Markup on:
H.R. 3410 The "Energy Security and Transportation Jobs Act"

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JEFFREY DUNCAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman, I present to the Committee H.R. 3410. This bill will expand offshore drilling in federal waters, put the Department of the Interior on a goal-oriented path for offshore leasing, and provides fair and equitable revenue sharing for all coastal states. H.R. 3410 was introduced by Representative Steve Stivers last November, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a legislative hearing on this bill on November 18, 2012.

Last year, this committee held numerous hearings on the many bureaucratic hurdles that we face in the U.S. in getting new energy development on line and creating the thousands of jobs that come along with it. It has become very apparent that while the President will stand on the House floor and say in his State of the Union address that he is an advocate for increased U.S. energy production, but behind the scenes he is doing very little to actually bring that production along.

In fact, the President Obama repeatedly stood in the way of increased American energy – his most recent 5-year OCS leasing plan opened NO new areas, even cancelling a lease sale off the coast of Virginia that has broad bipartisan support.

The bill presents a plan to reverse the President's no-energy policy and reinvigorate offshore energy development in the United States. It is going to create over a million jobs. It is going to revive the thousands of small businesses that provide the food, housing and other services to these offshore energy workers. And finally, it is going to generate revenue that will help provide Americans with a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure system.

The bill has a lot of similarities with legislation introduced by the Chairman that passed the Committee and the House of Representatives last year. I believe it is a smart plan to create jobs, create energy, and create revenues – all for the United States. I understand he Chairman has an amendment in the nature of a substitute to this bill and I believe he will be speaking more in depth about that. Once adopted, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.