U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARING

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
Basic Research for Energy Applications in the DOE Office of Science
September 10, 2008

Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis (SC-4)

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairman Lampson, for holding this hearing about the Basic Energy Sciences program in the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

In many ways, basic research is the lifeblood of our economy. Through better understanding of the nature of energy and matter in our universe, we can discover new ways to improve and harness these forces. We need Office of Science research facilities, like the Spallation Neutron Source, well before we can realize applications in superconductors, solar panels, and fuels of the future like hydrogen.

Basic research also plays a role in educating young scientists and cultivating the inventive spirit of American science. We need a constant supply of young, talented scientists to keep America on the cutting edge of expertise and competitiveness in energy and help us tackle the emerging problems of the future.

South Carolina research universities are pushing the envelope with innovative research in both basic and applied energy sciences. The Basic Energy Sciences program supports this work every year through competitive research grants. With nearly $3 million in grants to South Carolina universities in FY 2008 alone, the Basic Energy Sciences program is a partner in promoting innovative research and training the next generation of scientists in South Carolina.

I'm interested in learning how the resources and facilities of the Basic Energy Sciences benefit the scientists, students, and industry researchers that use them and what this program is doing to generate new energy advancements and ideas. I also hope to learn how this program can better serve the needs of its users.

I thank our witnesses for being here today and I yield back the balance of my time.