

**Opening Statement**  
**Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC), Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment  
Committee on Science and Technology  
*FutureGen and the Department of Energy's Advanced Coal Program*

March 11, 2009

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

Duke Energy faces a dilemma in South Carolina. They would like to produce energy free of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and help bring the energy solutions of tomorrow to their customers today. The licensing and cost hurdles of nuclear, wind, and solar power have forced Duke instead to meet increased energy demand by building coal-powered plants.

Duke Energy is not alone. We're using lots of coal. We need to focus on ways to make that consumption cleaner and more efficient. Perhaps if we had clean coal and carbon capture technologies readily available and affordable, companies like Duke would be able to meet growing energy demand with coal and without emissions.

We need these technologies to be affordable and attractive to U.S. and global industry alike. America can lead the way with technological innovation that can be easily integrated into existing coal plants worldwide.

The Department of Energy's decision to restructure the FutureGen program in 2008 compromised some important components of clean coal research. We had hoped for the production and capture of hydrogen fuel. We had hoped for a laboratory to test new technologies. I'm interested in hearing how DOE plans to reevaluate the role of the FutureGen program in meeting our clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration objectives.

But with or without FutureGen, Congress is aggressively seeking an answer to our carbon emissions problem. I believe the best way to do this is to attach a straightforward price to carbon emissions and reduce payroll taxes in an equal and offsetting amount. By forcing the market to internalize the externals associated with burning fossil fuels, we can encourage cutting edge innovation in energy technologies and help America be a leader in finding the energy solutions of tomorrow.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.