

**Introductory Comments of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Forum on “Geopolitical Implications and Mutual Benefits of U.S. LNG Exports”
October 10, 2013**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

We are here today to talk about a good news story—one I hope is gaining the attention of the American people. Just last week, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the U.S. is overtaking Russia as the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas, a startling shift that is reshaping global markets and presents new opportunities for cooperation. U.S. EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski said it best in his reaction to the news: “This is a new era of thinking about market conditions, and opportunities created by these conditions, that you wouldn't in a million years have dreamed about.”

This committee has held several hearings on the energy transformation that is currently underway. We started off the year hearing from energy experts and the EIA to discuss not only the country's surge in production, but also the revisions upwards in estimates of the resource base, which helps us plan for future demand. We continued with hearings on the regulatory and market barriers to U.S. energy exports, as well as discussions about how our energy abundance is benefiting and will continue to benefit American manufacturing. Today, we continue our exploration of this topic with this forum on “The Geopolitical Implications and Mutual Benefits of U.S. LNG exports.”

The committee is thrilled to have before us such a wide and diverse display of international interests. I also understand we had interest from many other countries not represented before us today. Let me say that the committee welcomes continued input from all parties interested in this issue and we look forward to building upon our friendships and continuing the dialogue.

I welcome all the members on both sides of the aisle, including Congressman Turner who has been one of the earliest and most vocal champions of LNG exports here in the House. It is my hope that we can use this opportunity to better explore how moving forward with American energy exports can help strengthen our ties with foreign nations while at the same time providing mutual benefits domestically here in the U.S. with added job creation and continued energy self-sufficiency.

With that, I would like to have the country participants each take a minute to introduce themselves and then I will turn it over to Chairman Whitfield to go over the format and how we will divide up the time to make sure all regions are adequately covered.

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