

Prepared Statement of LaDoris G. Harris
Nominee for
Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact
United States Department of Energy
Before the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

September 15, 2011

Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am humbled and honored to come before you today as President Obama's nominee for Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact for the Department of Energy.

First, I have to thank President Obama and Secretary Chu for recognizing my abilities and nominating me for this position. I am also most appreciative of this Committee for considering my nomination.

I am joined today by a host of family and friends who share my view that this position is one that I have been preparing for my entire career.

I am a 29-year Energy industry leader, with roles spanning from field service engineer to corporate officer in some of the world's largest engineering firms. I am currently President & Chief Executive Officer of Jabo Industries, LLC, a minority-woman owned management consulting business concentrated primarily in the Energy, Information Technology, and Healthcare industries. My corporate and entrepreneurial experience has well prepared me to effectively perform in the position for which I have been nominated.

I was born in the small town of Denmark, South Carolina. I am proud to be the daughter of William "Jabo" Guess, a wise 92 year-old who raised 13 children after my mother died of breast cancer when I was only 8 years old. He raised us with strong family values, unwavering integrity, robust work ethics, commitment to education and faith in God, all wrapped in love and laughter.

I was inspired to pursue an engineering career during a field trip to DuPont's Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, hosted by my high school chemistry teacher. The tour guide emphasized engineering as an attractive and challenging career path for women and minorities. I returned to Savannah River as a summer intern while in college.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, I joined Westinghouse Electric Company as a field services engineer in its Nuclear Services Division. After increasing responsibilities and exceptional performance, I became the youngest employee in the history of the division to be promoted to management. During my tenure at Westinghouse, I received a Master

of Science in Technology Management from Southern Polytechnic State University. I worked for ABB Services, Inc., where I received four promotions within five years. I was named VP of Operations & Production for all operations in the U.S., becoming the highest-ranked African American female in ABB worldwide. I later joined the executive ranks of the General Electric Company, where I held a number of leadership positions in its Energy and Industrial Systems businesses.

My 29-year career in the energy industry has afforded me experience working across many energy sectors, including renewable energy, electric utility, oil & gas, industrial, and commercial. My diverse leadership roles in operations, engineering, services, sales and marketing, have prepared me for the duties of the Office of Minority Economic Impact at the Department of Energy. My technical and operational experience, coupled with strong business acumen, equips me with the expertise needed to lead and enhance this important office within the Department. Further, I will lead the Office in supporting the DOE mission of creating jobs, improving energy security and developing innovative and competitive energy technology solutions for our nation. My steadfast commitment to mentoring students, young professionals and entrepreneurs will be most beneficial in connecting with the citizens the Office of Minority Economic Impact is dedicated to serving. For example, as Chairman of the Entrepreneurs Committee for the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), I increased membership by 85% thus resulting in winning the 2010 Chairman's Cup Award.

Thus, I fully commit to you that I will strive to fulfill the duties of this position beyond expectation and to lead the continued progression of small, disadvantaged and minority businesses in helping to improve our nation's economy. I am committed to fully engaging the Office as a critical conduit to achieve the Department's overall goals and objectives, assuring that minority businesses and minority educational institutions enjoy full participation in the Department's programs and opportunities.

I would like to thank each of you for your time and attention. If confirmed as Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, I would be honored to have the opportunity to work closely with this Committee. Thank you again and I welcome any questions you may have.