



**Opening Remarks
First Meeting of Conferees to S. 2012
Chairman Lisa Murkowski
September 8, 2016**

I will brief this morning. First I want to thank my Senate colleagues for the work that you have done, that we have done together to build a bipartisan product of which, I think, we can all be proud. I want to thank and acknowledge our House colleagues for the good work that they have done in advancing their energy proposal through the House.

Few thought we would make it this far – that we would be able to write a bill, or pass it, let alone make it to conference. I think we have been written off by every trade journal three or four times throughout the way.

Our task now, which our staffs began over the long recess, is to develop a final bill that can be signed into law. That's my goal here. My goal is to update our energy policies in this country and get a conference report, a bill that can be signed into law by the president.

We all know we can do this. We all know how important it is to do this, and all of us have priorities for the conference report.

Today, instead of listing mine, I want to tell you that I intend to run this conference in the same open and bipartisan manner that helped us pass our Senate bill.

I'm also here to listen to you: to your goals, your preferences, and your expectations.

We all know that we are going to be down in the weeds on legislative text, so I want to quickly point to the big picture, so we won't forget why we are here. This is our chance to modernize our energy policy. It is our opportunity to update policies that have not been updated in nine years; it is an opportunity to help the people we serve.

So let's work together. Let's finish the job. Let's prove the skeptics wrong, again, and succeed where so many expect us to fail. Let's write a good, strong conference report – and let's make this the first major energy bill signed into law in almost a decade.

I look forward to working with you all.

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