



**Opening Statement**  
**Full Committee Hearing on Domestic and International Efficiency Efforts**  
**Chairman Lisa Murkowski**  
**October 22, 2019**

Good morning, everyone. The Committee will come to order. Today's all about efficiency. So I'm not being very efficient this morning, so let's talk about energy efficiency cause then we'll maybe get somewhere.

Back in May, we met to examine opportunities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency here in the United States and today, we're going to take that just a step further, look at the efforts to increase efficiency internationally, and what best practices we can potentially utilize here at home.

Efficiency is a key ingredient to good energy policy. As we work to make energy more affordable, I think the first place we should look is to ensure that we're using energy in the best and the most efficient way.

By reducing energy use, we reduce energy costs, which matters to every family and business. We can improve reliability through technologies that reduce load when demand is high, lessening the likelihood of brownouts or blackouts. Efficiency of course can also play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption.

So whether we're talking about impacting the lives of low-income and rural communities, or ways to address the impacts of climate change, energy efficiency is a big piece of that puzzle.

I am pleased this morning that we have Dr. Brian Motherway, who is the Head of Energy Efficiency at the International Energy Agency, who's joining us this morning. IEA has placed an increased focus on efficiency, I was pleased to be asked to be an honorary member of their new Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency and that's something that I thank you for this opportunity but again to focus on not only what we are doing but best practices globally.

We all know that efficiency presents an amazing opportunity... but really it's an opportunity we know that but how do you turn it into a reality? There are many international efforts that are underway to share policies and best practices for advancing clean energy, and expanding research and development into innovative technologies. So hopefully we'll hear a little bit more this morning about the "Three Percent Club" – this is a coalition of countries and businesses that

are committed to increasing global energy efficiency by three percent annually.

Here at home, energy efficiency remains one of the easiest steps that we can take – and its benefits can be significant. The Alliance to Save Energy reports that 25 million American households have reduced or foregone medical or food purchases to pay energy bills, and households earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level spend on average 16.3 percent of their income on energy costs.

As we were looking at our background memo for Committee members, in the very first sentence in our briefing memos, here in the United States energy efficiency measures have helped reduced energy use by 50 percent relative to what it would have been had the 1980's energy use pattern continued saving each American an average of 25 hundred dollars per year on their energy bills. That's significant.

Even small changes in using energy more efficiently can make a big difference. I like to cite some of the things that we see in my state. A little community called Yakutat, which is in the northern end of the Southeast panhandle population of between 5 and 800 hundred people depending on the fishing season but the elementary school there made a change to more efficient lighting, doesn't sound like that big of a deal but they're able to save about 70,000 dollars a year which for them in that community translates to a teacher's salary. And so you look at what the benefit is and then the payback already to that community has already been completed. So lots of good examples out there.

We've got a lot to discuss this morning, so I just want to briefly introduce our panel of expert witnesses as I wrap up. I mentioned Dr. Motherway – so again thank you for traveling across the Atlantic to join us here this morning – we're also joined by:

- Dr. Daniel Bresette, who is the Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Initiative;
- Ms. Jennifer Layke, is the Global Director for Energy at the World Resources Institute; and
- Mr. W. Scott Tew, who is the Executive Director of the Center for Energy Efficiency & Sustainability at Ingersoll Rand.

So we'll have good conversation this morning as we talk about how we advance energy efficiency here in this country and globally.

And with that I turn to my friend and my colleague Senator Manchin.

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