

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Markup of *H.R. 5638: Solar Fuels Innovation Act*
July 7, 2016

Thank you Chairman Smith, and I want to thank you for holding today's markup.

I welcome the opportunity to do everything we can to advance research in solar fuels. Solar fuel technologies aim to produce fuels like hydrogen and hydrocarbons from a combination of sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide, and do this far more efficiently than nature's photosynthetic process.

If we can figure a way to do this and make it cost-competitive, solar fuels have the potential to make a major contribution to reducing our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels.

However, I wish we would have taken a little more time to make sure we're doing this the right way before going straight to a Full Committee Markup. My staff only saw early draft language of this bill a few weeks ago, and on Tuesday the Department of Energy raised significant concerns with some of the bill language.

I do not believe that the issues the Department has raised are insurmountable, and perhaps some of the amendments offered today will help to address them. But I still believe that these issues could have been avoided if the Committee had proceeded with regular order on this bill.

Having said that, I do support the intent of the bill, and I yield back.