

**Opening Statement of Chairman Edward Markey
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming
Connecticut Field Hearing**

This hearing is called to order. Thank you all for coming today.

I am pleased to hold this hearing in the historic Mark Twain House and Museum, and we thank the Museum for hosting this event. I would also like to thank Congressman Larson and his staff for their help in organizing this important hearing. Congressman Larson is a very important Member of the Select Committee and also has been one of the leading advocates for Congress to deal with oil and gasoline prices aggressively. His district is home to some of America's truly great companies, companies that will lead the way on solving the global warming problem, and so we are glad to be here to see first hand how Connecticut can lead us to a new energy future.

As Congressman Larson knows, I am fond of quoting Mark Twain, and not just when I am at his museum. One quote I particularly like is when he said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."

The story of energy policy in our country over the past 35 years, unfortunately, is a story that has an all too familiar rhyme. I have been in Congress for 32 years, and during that time I have heard doomsday prophets wax lyrical as they repeatedly exaggerate the cost of new technologies. While I have heard the predictions, I have also seen technologies continually exceed our expectations. And seeing is believing. When the Mark Twain House was built 130 years ago, it was considered modern because of revolutionary features like gas lighting. Mark Twain could never have imagined that today we would be kept cool by the latest in geothermal technology. His home, now the first museum in the nation to achieve LEED certification, stands as a reminder that technology will continue to unlock doors our imagination has yet to dream.

America has a proud history of dreaming big and aiming high. A president from my home state, John Kennedy, set a bold goal for America – send a man to the moon and back in just nine years. He was setting the goal high "not because it

is easy, but because it is hard.” He recognized that ambitious goal required the invention of technologies and metals not yet imagined. The challenge facing our nation on climate change is equal to the challenge our nation faced to explore the moon. And I am confident that American ingenuity and technology will answer with the same speed and spirit as it did a generation ago.

In the process of developing and deploying these technologies, a new green job market is being created that stands ready to hire at increasingly large numbers. The technologies we deploy to save our planet will have to be produced, installed, and maintained. This will require a transformation in our work force, from coal mines to wind farms, from oil rigs to solar plants. Future low emission cars will not only drive us to work, they will drive our economy. Renewable energy from wind and solar will not only power our homes, they will power job growth.

Today we will hear and learn from two great American companies that have been leaders not only in developing the technologies that will help transform us into a low carbon world, but have changed their own day-to-day operations in order to decrease their carbon footprints. They have done all this while continuing to see profits grow. These companies serve as examples of the economic prosperity that can be unleashed by pursuing the principle of environmental stewardship.

While protecting the environment is a valued moral principle on its own, it is rapidly revealing market opportunities far greater than business as usual. For too long naysayers have insisted that protecting our planet will be the death knell for our economy. But the climate is changing. And as we face the greatest moral obligation of our time to protect our planet, we are also discovering business opportunities embedded in being good stewards of the environment. As Mark Twain also said, “Prosperity is the best protector of principle.”

I now recognize the gentleman from Connecticut, Congressman John Larson.