NEWS RELEASE

WIREC 2008
Washington International Renewable Energy Conference

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TRANSCRIPT OF WIREC 2008 KICK-OFF PANEL DISCUSSION
Washington, DC – October 2, 2007

Panelists: Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky;
Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development Thomas Dorr;
Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality, International Affairs and Climate, David Banks;
Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Claudia McMurray;
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Alexander Karsner;
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Reno Harnish;
Director, Department of Commerce Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, Joe Neuhoff;
Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, Al Johnson;
Director of the Office of Atmospheric Programs at the Environmental Protection Agency, Brian McLean

ASST. SEC. CLAUDIA McMURRAY: -- (In progress)-- efforts on environmental issues and particularly on climate change. Last week Under Secretary Dobriansky was a key member of President Bush's Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change which was hosted by the State Department. The Major Economies Meeting brought together 17 senior representatives of the world's largest users and greenhouse gas-emitters to discuss the way forward for the UN framework convention on climate change. Under Secretary Dobriansky led one of the sessions which focused on acknowledging development. When President Bush spoke to the delegates, he discussed the greater role that alternative energy –nuclear, wind, solar and sustainable biofuels—must play to help grow our economy and protect the environment. Developing and sharing new technologies will be a vital part of this process.

Today as we launch WIREC 2008, we continue last week's mandate. We come together to find common solutions to energy security and environmental sustainability with a

focus on renewable energy's role. I'd like to now turn it over to Under Secretary Dobriansky.

SEC. PAULA DOBRIANSKY: Thank you, Claudia, and good morning to all of you – ambassadors, distinguished guests here in the audience. It's a real pleasure to have you join us here today, and it's also my pleasure to announce that from March 4 to 6 of 2008 in Washington, DC, the United States will host the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference. And this conference, known as WIREC 2008 –and all of you should have received this—will play a key role in addressing energy security and climate change and will support the ongoing work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

President Bush has stated, "The United States will work with all nations that are part of this convention to gain access to clean and more energy-efficient technologies." Well, WIREC will also build on the positive momentum generated by last week's Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change, which Secretary Rice hosted here at the State Department.

Now the Major Economies Meeting brought together 17 of the world's largest economies representing 4/5ths of the world's economies and about 4/5ths, or about 80 percent if you will, of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The meeting as we see it was the first in a process to develop a detailed contribution to address energy security and climate change when the Kyoto Protocol target is fired in 2012. Specifically the intent was to try to work together in contributing to the developing of a post-2012 framework and to advance the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali in December.

Renewable energy technologies were a key focal area of last week's discussions and will be a critical component of our ongoing efforts to enhance energy security and mitigate climate change. WIREC as we see it provides an important opportunity for government ministers from around the world to demonstrate their commitment to accelerate the use of renewable energy. It will be in fact the third ministerial level global event on renewable energy, following conferences that were held in Bonn in 2004 and in Beijing in 2005.

At WIREC, government ministers will come together with all major stakeholders. They will discuss how renewable energy advances our shared goals for increasing sustainable development and energy security while addressing the global challenge of climate change. Participants will raise issues, they will exchange information, share experiences and best practices, and—critically—WIREC will also provide a platform to promote strategies for the development and rapid adoption of renewable energy systems worldwide including second generation biofuels.

Renewable energy will continue to play a very key part in U.S. climate policy, and it is an increasingly important energy source worldwide. According to a recent study by the United Nations Environment Program, investments in renewable energy reached a record $70.9 billion in 2006, a 43 percent increase over 2005. A similar growth trajectory is expected this year.

The United States and the EU together account for more than 70 percent of this investment in 2006. While most renewable energy investment is from OECD countries, there is growing interest and activity in developing nations, especially in China, India, Brazil among others. Indeed, Chinese companies were the second largest recipient of venture capitals for renewable energy projects in 2006, after the United States. And also last year India was the largest foreign investor in renewable energy companies. And Brazil is the biggest renewable energy market in the world, so more than 75 percent of Brazil's cars are flex-fuel. North Africa is also a particularly promising region for renewable energy.

The United States is well-positioned to host WIREC 2008. We are a major producer of renewable energy such as biofuels, and a principal developer of many renewable energy technologies including solar, wind and battery. The United States is a substantial marketplace for renewable energy industries globally, and we lead the world in venture capital and private equity transaction involving renewable energy. Also, our federal system of government means that we have 50 states and hundreds of county and city jurisdictions experimenting with an array of policy and financial models to increase the diffusion of renewable energy technologies.

WIREC we think is really a great opportunity to highlight the successes found in counties, provinces and cities here in the United States as well as around the globe. The State Department is working very closely with other agencies, and you'll be hearing shortly from the distinguished Under Secretary Tom Dorr from the Department of Agriculture. But I see in the room many of our colleagues from Energy, Commerce, Treasury, Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and NASA, to construct a robust agenda for WIREC.

The conference will advance energy security, climate change, air quality and sustainable development goals including agriculture and rural development, and it will do so by producing, at least we hope, the following outcomes.
First, we hope to raise political support and public awareness. WIREC will showcase public and private commitment for the deployment of renewable energy technologies as a mean of adjusting energy security, climate change, air quality and sustainable development, and that includes expanding broader market opportunities for agricultural producers and wealth creation in the rural sector worldwide.

Second, we see WIREC as serving as a launch pad if you will for specific focused on-the-ground initiatives by the public and private sectors to promote widespread adoption of cost-effective renewable energy technologies.

Third, WIREC will help generate innovative tools for disseminating energy and environmental solutions. It will help put the world's best renewable energy solutions at the fingertips of those facing the world's biggest energy challenges. The conference will contribute to advancing the state of the art in collecting and disseminating best practices to end users, building on work done by UN Commission on Sustainable Development,

the European Commission, the U.S. Federal, state and local governments, donor agencies, international financial institutions, the International Energy Agency, and multi-stakeholder partnerships such as REN-21 and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, or REEEP as it's known.

WIREC participants will demonstrate global leadership in renewable energy research, policy development, technology innovation, commercialization and deployment. And they will foster collaboration between industry and government to help solve global energy challenges.

And we encourage governments and the private sector to consider what pledges they will make in the action plan that will be produced by the conference.

As stakeholders in the renewable energy community, I invite each and every one of you and your colleagues to join us next March, help us bring about a dramatic and innovative number of ways to transform renewable energy as a primary mainstream source. I want to thank all of you for joining us this morning. We're very excited about the WIREC conference and about the contributions that we think it can build on and that we can make in going forward. Thank you so much.

[Applause.]

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thank you, Under Secretary Dobriansky. Now I'd like to introduce Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tom Dorr. As Under Secretary, Mr. Dorr oversees three program areas that provide a slightly less than $20 billion for loans, grants and technical assistant to rural residents, communities and businesses. He also oversees a $97 billion portfolio of existing business, housing and infrastructure loans to rural America and the largest federal government financier of commercial renewable energy ventures.

Under Secretary Dorr serves as the chairman of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Energy Council which is responsible for advancing the President's Energy Initiative and promoting the production of domestically grown fuels and also serves as the federal co chair of the Biomass Research and Development Board.

Last year Mr. Dorr convened a National Renewable Energy Conference that brought nearly 1,500 private and public sector renewable sector energy interests together. So we're thrilled and fortunate to have his experience and leadership as we plan for WIREC 2008.

Under Secretary Dorr.

[Applause.]

SEC. TOM DORR: Thank you very much for that kind introduction. I'd also like to say at the outset that the conference that we hosted last year was done in conjunction

collaboratively with the Department of Energy, and I do co chair the Biomass RD Board with Andy Karsner who I believe you're going to have an opportunity to hear later today.

The reason I bring that up I think is to highlight both what the distinguished Under Secretary from State Dobriansky pointed out in her opening remarks, and that this is a collaborative conference, and this is a cooperative venture between a multitude of government agencies. Many of you are here today. But I think what I'm going to talk about effectively highlights the kind of joint relationships that are important in building on this particu7larly unique opportunity. So again I thank you very much for asking me to join you.

The United States Department of Agriculture truly is proud to serve as a member of the hosting for WIREC 2008. Our interest is really pretty straightforward. Renewable energy is an extraordinary opportunity for agricultural producers as well as in the context of broad-based economic development in rural America and for that matter world areas across the world. We look forward to WIREC as an opportunity to share our own experience and ultimately to learn from the best practices in other countries as well. It is important in this discussion to remember that renewable energy is in large part rural energy—ethanol, cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel and biomass technology all rely primarily on farm and forest resources, and wind because of its siting requirements is also largely a rural resources. Some solar and geothermal technologies may be suitable for deployment in urban as well as rural areas, but in these instances as well industrial scale applications are likely to be sited largely in rural areas.

So for all these reasons, renewable energy presents a remarkable economic development opportunity for rural communities both here as well as abroad. The scale of this opportunity is extremely large. In 2006 for example the total value of agriculture gross domestic agriculture production from all America's farms, ranches, specialty crop producers was about $275 billion. Net farm income was $59 billion. That same year for the first time ever Americans spent over $300 billion on imported crude oil or crude oil products. It's the first time that occurred. $300 billion, no matter how you slice it, is a lot of money, and today when you look at it in that context every gallon of imported oil or oil products in principal is a displacement opportunity for domestically produced biofuels or bioproducts.

The returns to the farmer are just the beginning. There are opportunities at every point in this value chain, whether they be production, conversion, transportation, distribution. Similar opportunities exist with wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy. The renewables revolution is arguably the greatest new opportunity for wealth creation in rural communities in our lifetimes. So yes, renewable energy is a national security priority, it is a balance of payments, it is an economic security as well as an environmental issue. But from the agriculture and rural development perspective it is also an opportunity of historic proportions and not just in this country.

The U.S. government is responding, accelerating development of renewable energy has been a priority to this administration from the beginning. As was indicated in the

introduction, just a year ago I had the special privilege of standing with President Bush in St. Louis as he reiterated the commitment. In St. Louis there was a significant event that occurred because there we had the President who was joined by three cabinet-level secretaries—Secretary Bodman, then Secretary of Agriculture Johanns, EPA Administrator Steve Johnson, as well as several Fortune 500 CEOs, some of the countries most significant venture capitalists, along with 1400 other highly-respected business, industry, research, finance, agriculture and nonprofit sector people, and they all came together at the same venue at the same time in the same forum to do one thing. They made for the first time ever in the history of this country a policy, a political and an economic commitment to building up a renewable energy industry in this country.

That was a remarkable event. It was a record, highlighted a record of very impressive progress that continues today, and we intend to further advance that through the initiatives that are embarked upon including those such as WIREC.

Since 2000 the United States has tripled ethanol production, and we will double it again within the next two years. In the same period, installed wind capacity in the United States has quadrupled. The U.S. has led the world in placed wind capacity in 2005 and 2006, and it's expected that we will repeat that effort again in 2007. Biodiesel is up from virtually nothing in the year 2000 to 379 million gallons of produced biodiesel this year, and anticipated that we are on track to produce 680 million gallons by the year 2010.

In addition to that, cellulosic ethanol is clearly now beginning to move from the labs into production and that is a significant initiative. These are significant gains, and yet we are still in the very early stages of a much, much broader transformation. USDA is working to support this evolution, and we clearly look forward to WIREC 2008 as another important step for a more diversified and secure energy portfolio.

From an agriculture and rural development standpoint, there are many questions to be addressed both in the United States as well as abroad. The research agenda is open-ended, the resource base may very well change. Biofuels are not a mature technology. Progress continues to be made on conversion efficiencies as well as improving feedstock resources. In addition, we have literally barely begun to survey the biosphere if you may for potential energy crops, and we do not know at this point what the optimal feedstocks are likely to be. The implications of new or improved feedstocks for agriculture may be very significant as well.

A second area of interest is investment opportunities in rural communities. From a national energy security standpoint corn is corn, ethanol is ethanol, wind is wind, and the ownership of the enterprise is a secondary consideration. Yet from a rural development standpoint, ownership is critically important. From the U.S. perspective we are interested in exploring investment as well as business models that encourage participation by farmers and other rural investors in these emerging industries. Similar considerations are important in many other nations as well, particularly as we look forward to sharing our experiences in this area and obtaining input from those other countries also.

A third consideration is the impact of biofuels on agricultural policy and food prices. For 70 years agricultural policy in the United States as well as other developed nations has been concerned largely with the management of chronic surpluses. Now rather suddenly we have a major new market that seems capable of absorbing the surplus and driving commodity prices to a different plateau. Markets will adapt, but we will need to be attentive to these adjustments that will be required. And we believe that WIREC 2008 will be an extraordinary opportunity to help us do this.

And finally, the build-out of renewable energy will also require a new industrial and logistical infrastructure in rural areas. This is going to involve railroads, pipelines, and trucking. It involves an expansion of the electric grid and new transmission corridors to move rural wind and solar power to urban markets. It will involve workforce training, new power, and wider infrastructure, banking and insurance.

In short, the ripple effects across the country will be dynamic. National systems differ, and not all countries are going to choose the same path, but the development or renewable energy is accelerating around the world, and for all of us WIREC 2008 is an opportunity to explore the issues and identify best practices in a variety of settings. We at the USDA are excited to be a part of this discussion, and we look forward to seeing all of you at WIREC next March. Thank you all very, very much.

[Applause.]

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thank you, Under Secretaries Dorr and Dobriansky, for your very informative keynote addresses.

Now the rest of the program the way it's going to work is, we have a panel coming up, and I would ask all of you joining me up on the podium, and you'll have several panel members discuss their various agency responsibilities, participate in WIREC, and after that we're going to open up to questions.

I'm going to briefly introduce the panelists here. First of all, to the far right is the Dave Banks, director of the White House Counsel on Environmental Quality. He works on International Affairs and Climate Change. Then Assistant Secretary Andy Karsner, whose portfolio includes renewable energy, profit center, Department of Energy. To my right here, principal deputy under secretary Reno Harnish from the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Science at the State Department. And then Al Johnson, senior advisor to Under Secretary Dorr from Rural Development. Brian McLean who's the director of the Office of Atmospheric Programs at the Environmental Protection Agency. And Joe Neuhoff who's the director of Office of Energy and Environmental Industries at the Department of Commerce. And I think we'll start off with Dave Banks, say a few words about your part in WIREC.

DIR. DAVE BANKS: Yes. Thanks, Claudia. I'd just like to emphasize that we're very enthusiastic about the potential WIREC offers. We have a strong international support for this effort. (unclear) for example common ground with the European Union in

advancing the real action plans for (unclear) climate change and (unclear) energy security. This was reflected in this year's US/EU Climate and Energy Security Statement. It's also a fundamental cornerstone of the President's Development Agenda, accelerating the deployment of advanced energy systems, (unclear) economic growth, rural economic growth in particular, via sustainable biofuels production. And including energy security by displacing the import of fossil fuels (unclear) sources. It was reflected by the importance of renewable energy in general reflected in the President's speech last week where he emphasized potential for renewable energy in meeting 20 percent of this country's energy mix. It was also a focus area during the major economies process or meeting, discussion of the two sectors. So as you can see we're very excited about the potential in using this conference to develop a common agenda and advance that agenda with our international conferences, specifically that agenda to tackle climate (unclear) for energy security. Thanks.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks, Dave. Now, Andy Karsner.

ASST. SEC. ANDY KARSNER: Thanks, Claudia. Thank you all for joining us today. It's fantastic to see a lot of friends in the room. A lot of you know me, and this is a conference that brings me full circle. I spent most of my career as a developer, outside our borders in the emerging markets, and I've always believed this is a global dilemma that we have. And so I think the Department of Energy's role is quite important and the portal to all of you, as a portal to the U.S. experience in exchange of ideas and policies in terms of scaling technology and enabling capital markets. Last week we sat in this room, very important dialog. Many of you were sitting as we gathered together, people that constituted representation from 90 percent of the world's emitting countries, countries that have 90 percent of the world's emissions. What was clear in this room last week was that we're reaching a historic turning point in the global conversation about that problem and that the era of problem identification is coming to pass, and that even the era of investing ourselves in singular solutions about problem constraint, there's a recognition that it is insufficient.

So in fact what's upon us is an era of solutions enablement, and what most are coming to understand is that the solutions enablement is very tightly tied to the acceleration, scaling and the timeframe in which renewable energy penetrates our economies. So the Department of Energy will have a vital role in offering that kind of technical support to Department of State in this endeavor. We are very proud and salute their leadership as they host the world, as America hosts the world in fact and all the agencies come together to do so, to induce what we hope is a discussion about pro-growth, climate change, policies on the back of accelerating renewable energy, but also stimulating in balance a discussion about energy security and economic development as was so eloquently put to you by Under Secretary Dorr and Dobriansky.

I think if there's any message that we will try to convey through all of this it is America's sense of urgency on the issue, something Secretary Bodman talks to frequently. It is the seriousness of purpose that our country has with respect to the issue. And above all, it will be trying to advocate for a new sense of global leadership where no one country runs

up the mountain with a flag and asks everybody else to follow, but that we all enter into a rugby scrum and try and push this down the field.

That's what we began here last week, the Department of State. And we will see that continued through Bali, and I think that we will see that manifest even more at WIREC. So thank you, Claudia, Reno, and Al, and of course the under secretaries for your leadership and we look forward to supporting this event.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks, Andy. I think the Rugby analogy is very helpful. Last we have Joe Neuhoff to say a few words.

DIR. JOE NEUHOFF: Thank you very much, Claudia. It's our pleasure, the Department of Commerce's pleasure to be a part of this interagency group, international group, this very successful endeavor of this conference. Commerce's role is focusing on the commercialization of deployment of these renewable technologies. We'll be working with our interagency partners and with the private sector on developing four concurrent panels dealing with the commercialization aspect of these technologies and how do we deploy them globally into the marketplace.

And we're actually focusing not just on this one event but we have other activities which we're also working on on the commercial deployment aspect. Assistant Secretary David Bohigian will be leading a Clean Energy Trade Mission to China and India in January, be visiting Beijing, (unclear), Hong Kong, Calcutta and Bangalore and we look forward to the private sector participants getting this information and hopefully joining us in January. We are also hosting a conference in February which we see as a natural lead-in to WIREC, where we invited the public and private sector, dealing with domestic and international strategies on commercialization of renewables and cleaner energy technologies. So we look forward to maybe having one of the panel in WIREC dealing with some of the outgrowth of that discussion which is in early February.

So we have a couple of things on the agenda. We're working on the commercialization aspect of the panels for WIREC and we look forward to a robust private sector participation in this effort. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Thanks, Joe, and my apologies. Brian McLean also would like to make a comment.

DIR. BRIAN McLEAN: Thank you, Claudia. Good morning. It's a pleasure to join my colleagues from across the U.S. government for kicking off this meeting for the international energy conference and answer any questions you might have regarding EPA's role. As many of you know, EPA has been actively involved in promoting both the development and deployment of clean energy technologies to advance the goals of clean air, energy security, and also to reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere.

EPA's domestic and international voluntary programs take advantage of underutilized technologies and practices resulting in sizeable efficiency gains, greenhouse gas reductions, as well as enhanced economic programs. These innovative programs are designed to spur investment by highlighting opportunities for environmental benefits that can be obtained by pressing market inadequacy that often make barriers to deployment.

As a representative of the agency tasked with impressing greenhouse gas emissions and air quality issues, I'd like to briefly highlight two of our flagship programs for promoting the use of clean, green, renewable energy. First is the innovative green power partnership which is now working with more than 750 companies nationwide to promote the use of green power, programs doubled in the last two years. And the second is the methane market program, which is an exciting international partnership we started two years ago that is working now with 21 country partners and more than 600 project network members to reduce global methane emissions, enhance economic growth, and reduce greenhouse gases.

Both of these voluntary partnerships tap energy and innovation of the private sector, the experience and expertise of the nonprofit sector, and the resources in collaboration with the U.S. government to make meaningful reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

I'm also pleased to announce that at this time the methane to market Partnership will hold its first Methane to Markets Partnership Expo, which is a forum for projects, technology, financing and policy that will be held the end of October, October 30th and November 1, in Beijing, China. In addition to showcasing over 80 methane recovery and use project opportunities from several Methane to Markets Partner countries, the expo will bring together public and private sector experts from around the world to discuss the key policy, technical and finance issues that are impacting project development. Thank you.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks, Brian. Now we're going to open the floor to questions and comments. In particular, we're interested in comments from you as to how we might be able to make the WIREC conference (audio break), also identify where you're from. I'm going to start over here to my left.

QUESTION: Good morning. My name is Mark (unclear). I'm (unclear) Energy. My clients are (unclear) General Electric, Raytheon, and Brad Pitt. We're an energy consulting firm and we particularly stay out of the government sphere, except at the state level, where we're very active and also in China (unclear) where we work. My question is, the states have been extremely innovative in how they approach renewables. Is there going to be an effort to bring them in and have them be key positions of their strategies in this conference (unclear)?

AMB. RENO HARNISH: Thank you for that comment. In fact I think the answer is solidly yes. We've begun conversations already with the National Governors Association and other bodies that will help us to bring speakers and participants to the conference. We recognize the states and cities in the United States, and you heard that in the remarks

of the under secretaries, as being innovative and innovators in the (unclear) of the United States.

However, this is an international conference, and there's very significant things going on in the Munichs of the world, the Londons of the world, the cities and provinces of other countries. And so this has from the very beginning been one of the pillars of participation that we see brining about a successful WIREC 2008.

QUESTION: I'm Barbara Branwell with the National Wildlife Federation. We're a very strong supporter of renewable energy as a solution to climate change support, and to promote a stable development. We're really excited about this conference. We're a member of (unclear), so we think this has wonderful prospects to the industry. What we've observed over the last year a growing controversy over the first generation biofuels which may hamper the crucial development of the second generation such as (unclear) and ethanol which we all need. And there are some efforts internationally to solve this problem such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels which some of you may know about. It's developing fair and transparent principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels. That will help the market to identify those biofuels which really do reduce greenhouse gases and conserve natural resources. So on behalf of the Roundtable, I'd like to offer that the Roundtable would be able to organize a discussion as part of all this to show the progress toward an international agreement on these principles and criteria, and I'd like to request or hope that there can be a spot in the set of events perhaps one of the side events, where progress to international agreement on these standards could be discussed internationally. Thank you.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thank you. I'm going to say just a few words and then I may have a couple panelists who'd also like to respond. As a government, the U.S. is participating in any number of discussions internationally about the sustainability aspect of renewable fuels, but in particular biofuels which is (unclear). I just recently participated in a meeting at the OECD in Paris, had the discussion as a top agenda item, and I think the European countries are looking at certain criteria. We're looking at certain voluntary criteria we could assume in this country. But I think that the WIREC conference can give us a tremendous amount of input into this issue as a whole. So do you want a little bit to that?

SEC: Yes. Well, thank you very much for your comments, and PANELIST: Thank you for that comment. In fact I think the answer is solidly yes. We've begun conversations already with the National Governors Association and other bodies that will help us to bring speakers and participants to the conference. We recognize the states and cities in the United States, and you heard that in the remarks of the under secretaries, as being innovative and innovators in the policy mix of the United States.

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QUESTION: I'm Barbara Branwell (sp) with the National Wildlife Federation. We're a very strong supporter of renewable energy as a solution to the climate change course, and to promote a stable development. We're really excited about this conference. We're a member of ACOR 20 to 25 campaign, so we think this has wonderful prospects for the industry. We've observed over the last year a growing controversy over the first generation biofuels which may hamper the crucial development of the second generation such as was said about the ethanol which we all need. And there are some efforts internationally to solve this problem such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels which some of you may know about. It's developing fair and transparent principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels. That will help the market to identify those biofuels which really do reduce greenhouse gases and conserve natural resources.

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So do you want to add a little bit to that?

MR. AL JOHNSON: Yes. Well, thank you very much for your comments, and in a second I'm going to give you Harry's e-mail address, where that input should go. Let me just talk to you about structure just a little bit because this is very unique. When Mr. Karsner and Mr. Dorr gave Ben Getto (sp) and I direction on where we put the advance in renewable energy conference together we kind of did the whole thing ourselves and drove the whole program. WIREC is really unique in a public and private partnership, and how I keep it straight in my mind is if you can envision one large tent that is going to be the Washington Convention Center next March, and we will have the government portion in the ministerial, and all the kinds of meetings that flow out of that that are going to be driven by our team kind of on the policy side taking place over in this part of the tent. And then the ACOR or the private sector, and pretty much broader than ACOR. ACOR is the driver. They've certainly shown leadership. But I believe, as I understand it, there are about a dozen industry organizations, or more, who also are now a part of that collaborative effort to put on the private sector piece, which is a very large trade show as well as also industry kinds of meetings to answer or address some of these unique issues.

And we've had great cooperation, so the two of us, our agenda committees are talking weekly to ensure that we aren't duplicating one another, that we are working in collaboration to put programs on that are indeed going to be addressed and the kinds of issues that you discussed. So Harry.Baumes@USDA.gov is the lead on the agenda committee for WIREC with a number of the other team members. So please send your comments to Harry. Reno, do you have anything?

AMB. HARNISH: First, just to answer your question, I'd say yes, obviously sustainability is integral to the entire discussion on biofuels and most renewable sources, but biofuels in particular. So yes, it will have a place in the sense that it already has an integral place in the interagency high level discussion that we have across all the agencies today inside the U.S. government. The context in which it is presented in this forum will not prejudge its outcome. That is to say, it is an ongoing dialog today, and there is a great deal of misinformation and disinformation with regard to sustainability issues at its core. What that is to say is, we don't have a global fixed agreed definition of what sustainability in a new biofuels economy is, as of yet. And so this is a useful forum for us to all engage the world with the experience through multiple forums that we have in the world, together with the Brazilians and the Italians and the United Nations and the one that you spoke of, to bring all those minds together and talk about a sustainability up and down the supply chain and not just what we see on magazine covers, because I think it's quite important that when you have a renewable energy conference that you also not forget that there is a sustainability question with regard to the incumbent conventional carbon fuels that the biofuels are displacing.

And so I think we will host that forum, but I think it will be with a greater global context of inviting everybody to come to better terms on the definitions.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Over here.

QUESTION: I'm Charley Comune (sp). I'm with the Energy Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt that the technology will evolve. However, my concern is whether or not this group is looking at some of the obstacles after we get, say, the technology. For example right now, permitting and siting are obstacles and take a long time, get your PISes (sp), and oftentimes it ends up in litigation. And it's great to say we're going to increase the amount of renewable energy that we have, but who is addressing, and how are we going to make sure that we get back to the consumer? Rural areas we're going to have siting for many, as I said. And transmission-wise to get the energy to the consumer. I feel that maybe this is just being not ignored but not addressed at this point.

ASST. SEC. KARSNER: Well, like the Biofuels Interagency Coordinating Committee that we have, we also have a coordinating committee with a different group on this particular subject. And so you point out something very important, that there are other constraints that are holding back the growth rates of renewable energy that are in fact iterative with the marketplace. So the more success you have, the more of a challenge

you have. Now what will be important for this conference in the context of this conference is, that this country in the last five years has had cumulatively amongst the highest growth rates in the world. And so we have real experience with what it means to be busting at the seams, and what that experience tells us is that technology is not in and of itself the greatest constraint to proliferation of renewable energy, nor are the capital markets.

And so these issues that you are talking about, the other issues which I would characterize as access to market and access to capital through consistency of policy, that is going to be a subject matter that is front and center in this conference because it affects all of the nations in the world that have a common set of companies. In other words, you know GE is global, Suzlan (sp) Energy from India is global, Genin (sp) Corp from Denmark is global. There's a common group of companies seeking to proliferate their share that have these common sets of constraints.

And so grid issues, transmission, siting, permitting, we deal with that in the U.S. government. We also deal with it internationally, and I think it will be a front and center issue for the conference.

DIR. NEUHOFF: I think those are excellent points, the barriers to the deployment of these technologies. Maybe that would be better focused in this kind of more of the U.S. charting our new energy future or clean energy future event that we're talking about in February, dealing mostly from the domestic side, but there will be an international flavoring to this conference as well, dealing on what are those policies which help diffuse these cleaner, more efficient technologies.

And Department of Commerce, the International Trade Administration, we focus on those trade and nontrade barriers to U.S. goods and services. And I think as Andy was mentioning, a grid interconnection, the issues you talked about, siting and permitting, we may want to focus on the U.S. side in February, and then we could feed that discussion because globally these are the same issues that all those international renewable energy companies have in deployment of those technologies. So I'm happy to get your card and see how we could develop an agenda item –

QUESTION: Excuse me. I do have a question though to ask you, on my ignorance on this. What are you referring to in February? I know I've got the March.

DIR. NEUHOFF: No, I just mentioned that Commerce is focusing on clean energy technologies, renewable energy technologies, and we're hosting an event. We have USDA helping us on a more domestic focus on how we chart our clean or new energy future. So that's focusing on the domestic side, but we're here talking about WIREC but how these conversations all feed into the March event.

QUESTION: Right. That's something that you're planning and is going to be open to the public?

DIR. NEUHOFF: Correct. Let me just add one more thing, and that is that we've talked about the problem from a substantive sense of can we take into account the barriers. We've talked about it from the fact that when you really get about specific United States problems, they might be better addressed in a specific United States forum such as Commerce will have in February of next year. But I want to reiterate to you that this event, WIREC, is to take on both the things that will drive renewables forward and also to discuss the barriers. From the beginning of our planning for this conference, it's been important to have the private sector involved, and let them also share with government what some of the barriers they see in getting to an increase in the use of renewable energy, which is really kind of the bottom line of all of this. It's to see an increase from the baseline scenarios of the use and production of renewable energy.

MR. JOHNSON: Quickly, and this is where as Undersecretary Dorr discussed we have information that we can share but we also want to learn. It's little known that USDA at Rural Development, the old Rural Electrification Administration which is now the Rural Utility Service flows up through our mission area at USDA. So all the financing, all the grid issues, distribution that you're talking about, we deal with daily in cooperation with DOE and the National Rural Electrification Association. So we are dealing with those issues, and we look forward to an international dialog on those issues.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks. Next over here.

QUESTION: My name is Marty (unclear). I'm the president of the Council of Scientific Society of Presidents. This is a group that represents 150 scientific research facilities and 1.5 million scientists. We hope very much that you will have in this proposed get-together a plenary session on real frontiers of the science that underlie the next generation of energy, alternative energies, not just the ones you've discussed so far but maybe ones that are emerging right now that will be available for discussion (unclear), for example (unclear) science and technologies. So I hope you'll get that kind of session to be a stimulant to people who are there to think about the maximum attainments they can have.

The second suggestion I have that I think is equally important is that the entire conference be geared towards action planning—not reporting—that the game plan should be not just coming with your information, but to sit down and try and digest it because everybody is gathered from a large number of places and to look at what kind of action plan (unclear) as the next steps for the next several years.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks, Marty. I think everybody in this room probably knows but I will repeat, a major emphasis for the U.S. in addressing the environmental challenges dealing with climate change and the related energy concerns is technology. That's something that is a major emphasis, and I know that Andy can talk to this in more detail. But our scientific expertise and our technological leadership through the years is something that we very much want to continue as we look at not only this conference but the decisions that will come as a result of it. So Andy, I don't know if you want to add a little bit more detail to that.

ASST. SEC. KARSNER: Thanks, Claudia. Before we – a lot of the questions are very good and they are about specific elements of the agenda. So I think it's useful for a moment to step back. I know a lot of you dwell in these waters quite regularly in advocating, but it's useful to step back and say what Reno just said, that this conference has as a net objective: how do we increase the scale and the rate of renewable energy contributing to our energy generation globally and all the good things that flow there from, okay?

And so if we step back and look at the macro, that means that the conference is about the three critical elements – about policy, about science and technology, and about the capital markets. And all three of these things are going to need to be addressed. And they will also be addressed with a time value premium. That is to say, there is a sense of urgency that will mean we must address the deployment issues that are currently the hot subject matter of policy discussion today, but we will also address the science and technology that is in the pipeline medium and long-term, that needs to have continuous flow to make this work.

The President crystallized these points last week when he spoke to the Major Economies Meeting and he was very specific in his ask:

1. The United States and Japan constitute more than 75 percent of the global R&D investment in new clean energy technology. It's not enough to rhetorically be for supplanting carbon emissions or for constraining them without solutions. We need much greater global collaboration and investment in scientific R&D. So that of course will be a subject matter.

2. The President said he wanted unfettered free trade in these clean energy technologies. That is to say, let's clear away the junk and debris of international policy that in any way impedes the flows of trade development and investment of clean energy. And,

3. The President proposed historically a clean energy fund. That is to say that Secretary of the Treasury, but again with all the agencies, will try to propose financing mechanisms on an international basis to ensure that capital markets flow, that debt can be placed, that equity overcomes the valley of debt, and that we address the financing issues with urgency with those technologies that can get to market.

So the conference has the roundness of these macro themes. And what we really want to do today as we solicit your input is not talk about whether or not we are including a specific point, but to work with you all to register your interest, to formulate how we the United States will engage the rest of the world in that framework.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Great. Next, over here.

QUESTION: So I guess that means I can't be self-serving? My name is Bob Kozak. I'm president of Atlantic Biomass Conversions. We're a small business, currently a small business. We're developing enzymatic systems to free up other biomass, cellulose, get into the hemicellulose and pectins that can be used in biocarbon-based fuel substitutes. My question is, being self-serving, is there going to be any forums for small businesses at WIREC, something in particular I was thinking just looking at the panel up there, DOE and Department of Agriculture have wonderful STR, STTR programs. Would there be an opportunity to have something to show us coming out of the small businesses, maybe starting with the STR, STTR programs, and bringing in similar programs from around the world because we all know that a lot of the emerging technologies are going to be coming from the small businesses, and that's going to be a great way to help us get into international trade. Was that sort of policy and not self-serving?

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks for the question. I think we have a number of panelists who want to speak to this, so we'll start with Reno.

AMB. HARNISH: Yes. I think that we want to see you participating in a WIREC 2008, we want to see these solutions coming together in front of policy-makers and in front of the interested community including NGOs, and it's going to be done in a couple of ways.

One is, of course we'll have these ideas represented in the main plenary sessions. But we also are working together with our contractor and partners in the United States Energy Association and ACOR to set up side meetings that will form a part of the official record of the conference. And furthermore, there's opportunities through the trade show that's associated with WIREC 2008, for which I think you have pamphlets along with our postcard, to bring together your own meetings of all thousands and thousands of people following your issues at this conference, 2,000 official participants. It's going to be the perfect opportunity for you to engage with others on the issues you just laid out.

ASST. SEC. KARSNER: Thanks for the comment on the SBIR, SBIC program. I think it's very important what you're saying, and I think it's a key role that Commerce will bring in terms of value-added. It's something we tried to work with them in terms of foreign commercial service in making sure that they are particularly aware and educated and tooled up, not only on what the possibilities are for the U.S. small business sector, but how to facilitate and advocate for that.

And so again, if we would get your name, sir, maybe with Mark Ginsberg or Joe Mizroch, we could talk about how we might work off-line with Commerce to formulate that.

DIR. NEUHOFF: We are actually, Department of Commerce is focused on trying to advocate on behalf of small and medium-sized enterprises. So I think we are looking to develop part of our commercialization agenda as well as have a booth at the trade show part focusing on innovation and possibly subdividing that for some of the small and medium-sized enterprises, those that may not purchase a full booth. So happy to get with you or any others who are interested in discussing that. Thanks.

QUESTION: Good morning. I'm David Watstein (sp) with National Council for Science and the Environment. And I first want to thank you for your leadership on this issue and to mention an opportunity that we're going to have that I hope can be synergistic with yours, which is in January of 2008 we'll be holding our national conference on Climate Change, Science and Solutions, here in DC at the Reagan Building, and that would be a follow-up on our 2006 national conference, Energy for Sustainable and Secure Future. And we are going to be obviously addressing a lot of the same themes here as we were through a mix of the science and policy community to develop the recommendations and collectively will be a blueprint for a low carbon economy. And I know we're working with some of the agencies, some of the NGOs involved, and I think there's real opportunity for us to be much more synergistic and use our conference coming a little bit more than two months before WIREC in terms of promoting WIREC and maybe developing some ideas that then can be further developed at the WIREC conference.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks. I think we definitely would appreciate your promoting WIREC obviously. But also the conclusions, whatever comes out of your meetings, I think would be useful to have fed into the WIREC conference at all. Is there anybody who wants to add to that?

AMB. HARNISH: There's kind of a tenor to some of the questions that you are looking at WIREC as something outside of your role of an activity, but we don't want to present that view. The purpose of this meeting is to try to pull you into this effort of making a truly successful world renewable energies conference. So it's not a matter of us promoting your event, but hopefully that you will want to participate and help get your message to the key audience of world ministers that are responsible for renewable energies. Even if you do not step up to the microphone this morning and tell us what you'd like to see or what you think of what we've proposed so far, please you have our coordinates, you have our site, and we want to keep hearing from you. Please enter into a continuing dialog in making this a successful conference.

And I conclude, I think there's quite a few embassies represented here as well that we continue this dialog in particular to make it a successful international effort to increase the use of renewable energy. Thank you.

QUESTION: It might be useful for those of us from the NGO community if there were maybe a couple point people in terms of an external advisory committee or something like that where we could actually interface more at the worker bee level as a way to really understand what the conference is and to be a real synergistic part of it.

ASST. SEC KARSNER: Just to agree with Reno for a second, I'll let Claudia follow up on whether there's a portal. I'm sure that we're figuring a web portal and contact people, etcetera, to follow the meeting. But further to what Reno has said, I look around the room, I see ACOR, I see SWISHR, there's more people here who have more experience organizing conferences than the United States government – very large, important, good,

valuable conferences on renewable energy that advance those particular subject matters, whether they are biofuels, whether they are policy, whether it's wind energy, etcetera.

So this is an opportunity for everyone in this room and for our government alike to assess what is the indispensable value of the United States government hosting this at the highest level in collaboration with friends and allies around the world at the highest level.

At its sum, the United States government is not in the renewable energy business. We are a catalyst. We are convener. And the capacity to convene at this highest, intensified global level of the dialog is the value added.

And what we need is your partnership in understanding that distinction which will characterize this conference in a different way than all the other conferences out there, because I know many of you in this room who are regular participants in the renewable energy community, if you attended every conference you got an invitation to, it would be a fulltime job. This is a first time, very serious, different level, different kind of event whose success will be determined by how distinctly you use it and the characteristics of convening at this high level.

So all the ideas that we have which are good ideas and which feed into our normal course of business, what we're asking for today is to step that up and say, if you were to have a conversation with Prime Minister Merkel, what would you say? If you were to speak to the NRDC of China about wind proliferation and ate need for new transmission corridors, how would you compare it with what's going on with the Western Governors Association?

So we're looking at this global level of questions, and everything is on the table. But I guess the point of my comments is to think out of the box and think differently about what makes this event distinct.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thanks, Andy. On a more mundane level, the other question that was posed was contacts and people you could work with. We're not quite ready to give you that, but I would say give us a few days and then go on the website which is listed on this postcard, WWW.WIREC2008.GOV, and if you give us a few days we'll have all the contact points listed and ways for you to be able to get in touch with them.

I see there are a couple more questions in the back. I'd just like to ask if there are any other people who want to ask questions or make comments to go to the microphones in the back. We'll go over here. Thanks.

QUESTION: Good morning. I'm Christina Iysare (sp). I'm with the U.S. Nonprofit called ENCo, and we invest in clean energy businesses in Africa, Asia and Latin America. And if I get a chance to see Prime Minister Merkel I would thank her for her 8 million euro commitment to ENCo at the Bonn meeting in 2004, and report to her of her

success in bringing clean energy access to hundreds of households and thousands of people in Africa.

And on the back of that, what I would say to her is, please come to this track here at WIREC that's focusing on energy and the poor, and energy and poverty mediation. Energy connects climate change and poverty alleviation, and while we've talked a little bit this morning, and I've heard sustainable development, there really hasn't been any comments about the linkage, particularly in Africa, Asia, Latin America, between clean energy, economic development, and poverty alleviation. I encourage that we get that on the track. It was a very significant agenda item in Bonn. It was covered quite aggressively in Beijing. There are many developing country entrepreneurs and developing country governments who are very concerned about energy access. I encourage that can be on the agenda, not be lost in focusing just on policy and technology because the bottom up solutions are very important to highlight and have some best practices.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thank you for that comment. I think I can best answer your question or comment by saying that the U.S. two to three years ago through the G8 meetings asked that the focus when we're talking about climate change and renewable energy and energy generally, that it had to be an integrated set of concerns, that you couldn't just look at climate change and environmental protection in an isolated way. You couldn't just look at energy security in an isolated way, that you also had to look at developing countries and their desire to grow economically and to prosper. And that somehow the strategy had to be linked together.

And so that's very much a part of our approach in the United States. We actually took it to the G8 at the Glen Eagles Conference two years ago. We were able to incorporate that into the leaders statement and to the strategy. So I think it's very much a part of the dynamic now, and I think it would be an important part of this conference as well.

MR. JOHNSON: I might just second a few of the comments that Under Secretary Dorr expressed during his comments. I mean, it's one of the key reasons why we're here as the Department of Agriculture is we see the impact that it has on producers in the United States and on rural communities, and I think Mr. Dorr talked about it, that we believe that that same thing is going to be happening around the world. It is already. You're talking about it in Africa.

And so I can assure you that economic development for rural areas around the world will be a key subject matter that we want to talk about.

QUESTION: I'm Bill Lorry (sp), President of Equity International. We're partners with ACOR developing part of the trade show portion of WIREC. As far as our role goes, we will be helping develop country pavilions, which will be comprised of the agencies and companies of our friends around the world, so that our embassy friends here at least, can see myself and my executive director…after the meeting, brief us with ACOR, and we

will also be developing an energy security pavilion as far as the tradeshow, so we look forward to working with all of you.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Thank you. Over here.

QUESTION: Good morning. David Sweet from the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy, otherwise known as WADE. I would note that there is the word WIRE in WIREC, and decentralized energy technology are those that try to reduce the need for wires to transmit electricity, and folks on on-site generation local power. Decentralized energy technology combines fossil fuels as well as renewables. And my question is, can we still have a focus, just as my issue, we'd certainly like part of the focus to be on decentralized, distributing technologies.

ASST. SEC. KARSNER: That's a good point. I never noticed the "wire" in WIREC, so thank you for pointing that out. It kind of goes into the comment that the lady from ENco made before you, announced a subject on rural development in a way. All these things are linked. It's really impossible in my mind at least to be begin a artificial differentiation when you start talking about a clean energy technology or renewable technology. There is a question of scaling, and so when we talk about 1 ½ to 2 ½ to 4 megawatt wind turbines we are talking about utility grade clean energy. And so we must talk about wires, and that is a reality in our life and transmission is a big accelerant to the deployment.

We equally have an emphasis on those technologies that are clean and distributed, whether they are used in industrial settings here like building-integrated solar and provide demand-side management. Or whether that same demand-side management tool is in fact the source of keeping medicines cool for vaccines, somewhere in the subSahara or lighting so that people can have literacy. So it's the same technology, and that is why the President has been very, very insistent that a dialog towards a post 2012 framework ensure that the developing countries are at the table. Many of those "developing countries" are in and of themselves partially substantially developed, with hundreds of millions of middle class people in them, and 800 or 900 million people living a life 300 years earlier than our own in terms of quality and standard of living.

I see the former under secretary is in the audience. David, I'd embarrass you for a moment. David spent a portion of his career in Nepal dealing with energy issues on the home level. How do you get smoke out of people's house so they don't inhale it, and can live beyond 40-year lifespan? I developed in Africa and South Asia. We are quite sensitive to not only the role of clean energy in that portion of the world, perhaps up to a third of the population that has no access to energy at all, and what the security implications are and what the literacy and development implications are, but we are concerned, and this conference will be a great and important forum for talking about the linkages between the developed and underdeveloped—because in a sense the reality is when you have a progressive feed-in tariff in Germany that everybody likes and gets profits on from solar, you also deprive the possibility of the developing world four or five years access to the world's current supply of solar.

Those are real issues that we have to begin to deal with in a real way because that energy delayed is energy denied, and it is literacy denied, and it is vaccines denied, and so I think my point is, all of these things are inclusive. It is a big tent discussion. And they are also linked. I really think it's impossible to talk about them in isolation of one another.

QUESTION: Thanks. Great response.

QUESTION: Robby Donovan, CEO of Securing (unclear) Energy which is a group of CEOs in major corporations chaired by Fred Smith and (unclear) former four star generals and admirals who are advocating for an energy policy. And the question was posed, if I could take on world leaders and what would I say on what should come out of this, I guess my feeling is the hope of renewable energy is fabulous and wonderful. When one looks at all the advertisements out there, and all the conferences on renewable energy, and all these things, it sort of leaves the American public and the public in the world, this notion, and this is about education of policy makers too about how there's this great frontier. And that's great. But just how minimal that is to the energy we use and what the challenge is and how great those challenges are for our national security, environmental protection. I think just coming out with a lot of happy talk about how renewables are going to solve our problems would be, I don't think it would serve the conference well. Really, leaders should also put it in the context of how small renewables are of our energy needs, how much work needs to be done.

I think what I'd like to see is really a frank discussion with the public and the world that like we are acknowledging just how small this is, although the frontier is there and what we need to do to increase it. But the (unclear) aren't right and how hard this is going to be. That's one.

And two is, that point ministers in the countries to try to come out with doing away with as Andy Karsner said, all the stuff there, the dead tissues of our policy, trade policies and others, with a way of saying, look, our country is committed to getting rid of one or two or three of these things, just something that people understand how serious the countries are, whether it be a tariff on ethanol from Brazil or others that people know.

Otherwise, once again, at the trade show and people are talking, and renewables are going to save our life. Renewables can't be the flux capacitor of our energy policy, where we don't have an answer to all our energy needs so we will invent our way out.

Now I do believe in the invention side of this. But I do believe that we need to also have equal leaders based on the platform they have speak to us seriously about the challenges ahead for this and not repeat what I would want them to come out of it so that people feel not just because there's hope but rather how hard that is going to be to achieve and how important it is to achieve.

AMB. HARNISH: I think our purpose in doing this conference is to take on both the problems as I said earlier, I think it was the Chamber of Commerce was saying, are you going to address these particular problems and to address solutions on how to get there?

But I think also several of us have said already that the purpose of the conference is not to blow or, I forget what the words you used, happy talk or something, that the purpose of this conference is a very practical one. I think mistakenly a number of forecasting studies have looked at renewable energy, and they said, well it's been 7 percent for a long time so therefore it's going to be 7 percent in 2050. I think the forecasters are missing the change that occurred in the world when oil went to $80 a barrel. And they're missing the change in the world when California says, we will have 25 percent or something by 2020 that comes from renewables.

These become practical, not fantastic questions to the big energy companies, the big utilities of California—how are we going to get this done, how are we going to comply with the law? So I want to assure you that we come from a very realistic perspective here, and we will consider ourselves successful if we can find ways to disabuse people of the notion that renewable energies are forever going to be 7 percent of the electricity generation.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: I'm going to throw it open one more time to see if anybody else wants to ask a question, make a comment.

QUESTION: Thank you very much. My name is Kanji Goto (ph). I'm a minister of embassy of Japan taking care of energy. First of all I would like to thank the U.S. administration for giving us a chance to get a basic information on the conference this coming March and also to give us a chance to exchange of views at this moment. And Japan participated actively in the past two conferences, and we'd like to do so in the coming and important third conference. And one question at this moment. Could you give us more detail about what kind of output you are hoping after discussing in the WIREC, and how do you proceed for the future about that?

AMB. HARNISH: Thank you very much for that question, Mr. Goto. The desire, aside from the overall goal of increasing renewables, getting them out of the 7 percent binder that they've been in, we're going to put it in practical tools that we hope:

One, much like the action plan of 2004 we hope to gather together pledges of companies, countries and others on how they are going to expand renewable energy.

Secondly, another outcome, a specific outcome around the broad goal of increasing renewables, is to bring together best practices and put them in an information tool that's attractive for people to use and easily draw down best practices built around the criteria that they are interested in.

Ideally, out of this conference someone, some country would volunteer to hold renewable energy conference number four. So aside from our broad goal which is pretty clear and

the content of the conference which is to look for solutions and avoid barriers, we have these at least three practical outcomes we hope from the conference.

ASST. SEC. McMURRAY: Okay. I have no other takers for the microphones, so I want to thank you all very much for coming today, and we look forward to working with you in preparing for WIREC 2008. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]