

**Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Hearing:**

**“Oversight of Scientific Advisory Panels and Processes at the Environmental Protection Agency and Legislative Hearing on S. 543 the Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015”**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.**

Thank you Subcommittee Chairman Rounds for convening today’s oversight and legislative hearing, and thank you to our witnesses for being here to testify. Today’s hearing covers a very important issue that hinges nearly every decision made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): science.

When it comes to very technical and complex matters before the EPA, Congress specially crafted laws to ensure that EPA decisions are based on sound science and advice from independent experts. Two key panels advising the EPA on such matters we will review today include the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Ideally, these panels should be composed of well-qualified and balanced experts, operate in an open and transparent process, and provide a robust and independent review to inform EPA action. However, current SAB and CASAC panels deviate far from this framework. We will hear testimony today that these panels exclude

professionals with real-world expertise, lack geographic diversity, limit public participation, and fail to hold the EPA accountable.

A prominent theme that will emerge from the testimony today is that the SAB is not fully independent from the EPA. The SAB has not fulfilled its obligation to respond to Congress because of EPA interference. EPA limits the ability for the SAB to review critical science and regulatory actions. The SAB is discouraged from expressing dissenting views and communicating uncertainties in reviews. EPA selects members of the SAB and CASAC who are seemingly an extension of the Agency due to the number of EPA grants received, work cited under review, or tenure on such panels.

Testimony will also highlight the need for Senators Boozman and Manchin's S. 543, the Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015, to address these issues. I am a proud cosponsor of S. 543. The bill would bring the much needed transparency, public participation, accountability, and independence to the advisory process which will ultimately lead to better science and better EPA decision-making.

I ask that my full statement be entered into the record. Thank you.