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Opening Statement (As Prepared)
Chairman John Garamendi
Subcommittee on Readiness:
*"Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7900 — National
Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023"*
June 22, 2022

Click [here](#) to view the hearing.

This morning, we meet to markup H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. Thank you, Chairman Smith. It is an honor to offer the Readiness Subcommittee's portion of the mark for the full Committee's consideration. I would like to start by thanking Ranking Member Waltz for his partnership on the subcommittee as well as Mr. Lamborn, who began the year with us before moving to the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. I also would like to express appreciation to the Members of the Subcommittee for their contributions, as well as the Committee's staff for their many hours of work in preparing this mark. This is a bipartisan product and the outcome of cooperation between Members on both sides of the aisle.

The jurisdiction of the Readiness Subcommittee is broad in scope and covers a range of topics from sustainment of weapons systems and facilities to safety, military construction, climate change, energy, and environmental policy. With that in mind, I'd like to take just a few minutes to highlight some of the important issues addressed in this mark:

- Consistent with our work from the last two years, the Readiness mark continues to address vulnerabilities in installation and energy resiliency, both in response to extreme weather and to ensure the Department can continue to accomplish its missions in the event of power disruptions.
- Relatedly, building on previous efforts to address climate change, this mark works to mitigate the Department's impacts while building resiliency and spurring innovation in clean energy.
- Moving on to sustainment, one of the keys to sustaining the Department's modern

weapons systems is a strong and modern organic industrial base. For too long our nation's depots, shipyards, and arsenals have been neglected. This year, the subcommittee continues its work to ensure that the department's organic industrial base facilities are adequately maintained and modernized. This is essential to ensuring that our state-of-the-art weapons systems are able to meet the challenges of near peer competitors.

- The health and safety of our military and civilian personnel will always be a top priority of the subcommittee. Building on our work in last year's NDAA, which made sweeping changes to address the Department of Defense's chronic inadequacy in creating and maintaining a culture of safety, this mark continues this work to ensure that these mandates are being executed effectively and overseen at the highest levels of civilian and uniformed leadership.

I'm proud of the funding authorized by, and legislative provisions included, in the Readiness mark. I again thank Ranking Member Waltz and the Members of this committee for their collaboration and partnership. I urge my colleagues to support this mark. With that, I yield back.

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