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Opening Statement (As Prepared) Chairman John Garamendi

Subcommittee on Readiness: "Markup of H.R. 7900 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023"
June 9, 2022

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This morning, we meet to markup H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I am proud to say that the Readiness mark is once again a product of bipartisan engagement from all Members of the subcommittee. It has been informed by the past six months of oversight events covering a wide range of topics that are vital to the readiness of our forces. Noting that this is Ranking Member Waltz's first markup in the Ranking Member role, I would like to thank him for his partnership on the subcommittee, as well as all the Members from both sides of the aisle for their contributions. Finally, I would like to thank the committee's staff for their countless hours of work in preparing this mark.

As I have often noted, the jurisdiction of the Readiness Subcommittee is broad in scope – ranging in topic from sustainment, and logistics to military construction, the health of our depots and shipyards to the Department's policies for energy, climate change, and environmental remediation. With that in mind, I'd like to take just a few minutes to provide some highlights of key issues addressed in this mark.

- Continuing the work we began in previous years, the Readiness mark addresses
 vulnerabilities in installation resiliency and energy resiliency, both in response to
 climate change and in ensuring that our forces can accomplish their missions even
 in the event of power disruption, either natural or man-made.
- The last NDAA made sweeping changes to address the Department of Defense's chronic inadequacy in creating and maintaining a culture of safety. The Subcommittee continues this work to ensure that these mandates are being

executed effectively and overseen at the highest levels of civilian and uniformed leadership.

- Similarly, we build on previous efforts to address climate change, with a particular focus on mitigating the Department's contributions and spurring innovation in clean energy.
- Moving on to sustainment, for too long our nation's organic industrial base has been neglected. This year, the subcommittee continues its work to ensure that the department's depots and shipyards are maintained and modernized effectively, so that our state-of-the-art weapons systems are able to meet the challenges of near peer competitors.
- Finally, people are our greatest asset, and we continue our work to ensure that our civilians, service members, and their families are well taken care of.

I think the mark before the Members is a good product, reflective of the bipartisan nature of this subcommittee's work, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

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