

KEY SUMMARY POINTS FROM THE TESTIMONY OF DAVID REJESKI

- Our ability to reap the long-term benefits of nanotechnology – in everything from medicine to energy and food production – will depend heavily on how we manage the introduction of the first generation of nanotechnology consumer products on the market. Products are entering the marketplace in areas where regulations and oversight are weak, for instance, in cosmetics and dietary supplements.
- In late March in Germany, the world experienced what may be the first nanotechnology incident resulting in adverse health effects involving a consumer product. A lack of disclosure concerning the ingredients in the product has prevented a timely resolution of the case and a third party testing seal, highly trusted by the German public, allegedly was misused on this product.
- Something is going right – nanotechnology products are being commercialized – but, clearly, things can go wrong if we fail to provide adequate oversight. The emergence of viable markets depends on strong and growing consumer confidence.
- Three steps can improve the overall climate for nanotechnology commercialization and help firms, investors, and consumers:
 - **Strategic EH&S Research:** We need to put our research in front of product flows to both inform oversight and regulatory strategies with good science and to provide important information on risks and benefits to the public.
 - **Effective Oversight:** For commercialization to succeed, we need an oversight system that is transparent, efficient, predictable, and trusted by the public.
 - **Better Public Engagement:** Resources for public engagement need to be increased by orders of magnitude and engagement activities accelerated.
- In addition, a number of focused activities can help nanotech commercialization:
 - **Industry Data:** Our commercialization policies and programs need to be informed by rigorous data about nanotech firms, their products, their issues, and needs.
 - **One-Stop-Shop:** A one-stop-shop at a federal level should be created to focus policy attention on commercialization and to help companies and investors.
 - **Green Focus:** The United States can become the world leader in the development and commercialization of environmentally benign, “green” nanotechnology production processes and products as well as a new generation of nano-based environmental technologies.
 - **Nano Procurement:** We should use the purchasing power of government (federal, state, and local) to help create early markets for critical nanotech-based products, especially in the energy sector.
 - **Export Promotion:** We need to begin developing an export promotion strategy to help U.S. nanotech firms in what will be a tough and highly competitive global market.