2009 BEHAVIOR, ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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PANEL: TRANSLATING IDEAS INTO POLICY

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H.R. 3247 SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- Directs the Secretary of Energy to:
  - Designate a Director of Social and Behavioral Research
  - Instruct the Director to create a research plan
  - Provide competitive, merit based grants consistent with research plan
  - Establish an Advisory committee

- HR 3247 establishes a connection between NSF SBE and DOE
WHY HAVE A SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AT DOE?

- Biggest energy savings will come from behavioral change
- Significant cost savings to consumers
- High return on investment
- Will lead to the development of more effective and efficient technology
SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- HR 3247 passed out of E&E Subcommittee without a problem
- Received support of social and hard sciences
- Became controversial in the Full Committee markup
- Misinterpretation of the bill and the role of social science
- No clear idea of the role of social science in Congress
SOCIAL SCIENCE IN CONGRESS

- The framework of Congress is unfriendly to the social sciences
  - Social science research crosses through the jurisdiction of several committees
  - This makes it difficult to build support for social science research in Congress
LOOKING AHEAD

- Social science presence on the Hill
  - A few social science organizations do a good job of supporting social science in legislation
  - Issue papers, in the form of one pagers are helpful

- Additional legislation that addresses the social sciences