

Appropriations
Subcommittee
5D-192

Dr. Walker

Dr. Rauch

1
00:00:05,510 --> 00:00:02,360
I wanted to ask a question a couple

2
00:00:07,820 --> 00:00:05,520
questions here about harp the high

3
00:00:11,990 --> 00:00:07,830
frequency active auroral research

4
00:00:14,720 --> 00:00:12,000
program several U of you at the table

5
00:00:16,730 --> 00:00:14,730
have a little bit of a piece here as you

6
00:00:18,890 --> 00:00:16,740
know this is located up in Alaska it's

7
00:00:21,650 --> 00:00:18,900
currently funded by the Air Force

8
00:00:23,870 --> 00:00:21,660
Research Lab it was formerly funded by

9
00:00:26,450 --> 00:00:23,880
the Office of Naval Research one of the

10
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:26,460
prime customers is DARPA which is

11
00:00:31,730 --> 00:00:28,320
currently running experiments at the

12
00:00:34,430 --> 00:00:31,740
facilities here so questions two to

13
00:00:35,780 --> 00:00:34,440

several of you this morning I'm told by

14

00:00:38,630 --> 00:00:35,790

the president of the University of

15

00:00:40,910 --> 00:00:38,640

Alaska that the Air Force has pulled its

16

00:00:43,819 --> 00:00:40,920

support for the facility and they're

17

00:00:46,819 --> 00:00:43,829

taking steps to to demolish it or take

18

00:00:49,729 --> 00:00:46,829

it down this summer he's making the

19

00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:49,739

argument that there is other

20

00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:53,250

opportunities for us and is trying to

21

00:00:59,139 --> 00:00:55,020

find a path where the university might

22

00:01:02,750 --> 00:00:59,149

be able to take title to the facility I

23

00:01:07,039 --> 00:01:02,760

like to start with you dr. Prabhakar I

24

00:01:09,859 --> 00:01:07,049

understand that a lot of folks here on

25

00:01:12,980 --> 00:01:09,869

the committee probably don't understand

26

00:01:16,070 --> 00:01:12,990

what HAARP does I think most Alaskans

27

00:01:20,570 --> 00:01:16,080

don't really know what HAARP does or why

28

00:01:23,149 --> 00:01:20,580

the agency is involved in it so a very

29

00:01:26,359 --> 00:01:23,159

brief explanation and then a more direct

30

00:01:28,460 --> 00:01:26,369

question would you be disappointed or

31

00:01:32,359 --> 00:01:28,470

would you lose something if if HAARP

32

00:01:34,700 --> 00:01:32,369

were to go away senator Murkowski as I

33

00:01:37,399 --> 00:01:34,710

think you know one of our programs has

34

00:01:40,910 --> 00:01:37,409

been using the HAARP facility for the

35

00:01:42,889 --> 00:01:40,920

research that it's pursuing and my

36

00:01:45,920 --> 00:01:42,899

understanding is that we did get value

37

00:01:48,679 --> 00:01:45,930

out of that interaction the the planned

38

00:01:50,149 --> 00:01:48,689

DARPA is projects and we're not in the

39

00:01:52,999 --> 00:01:50,159

business of doing the same thing forever

40

00:01:55,160 --> 00:01:53,009

so very naturally as we conclude that

41

00:01:58,969 --> 00:01:55,170

work we're going to move on to other

42

00:02:02,539 --> 00:01:58,979

topics so it's not a it's not a an

43

00:02:04,520 --> 00:02:02,549

ongoing need for DARPA despite the fact

44

00:02:06,830 --> 00:02:04,530

that we had actually gotten some good

45

00:02:11,300 --> 00:02:06,840

value out of the that infrastructure in

46

00:02:12,610 --> 00:02:11,310

the past understood then to to dr.

47

00:02:15,789 --> 00:02:12,620

Walker and mister

48

00:02:19,509 --> 00:02:15,799

Schaffer then dr. Walker your agency is

49

00:02:21,369 --> 00:02:19,519

currently running the facility I've

50

00:02:24,850 --> 00:02:21,379

mentioned that it's our understanding

51
00:02:28,660 --> 00:02:24,860
through the president of U if that that

52
00:02:31,809 --> 00:02:28,670
plans are to move forward and demolish

53
00:02:34,059 --> 00:02:31,819
the facility this summer so the question

54
00:02:37,390 --> 00:02:34,069
to you is is that accurate can you

55
00:02:40,690 --> 00:02:37,400
explain why and then perhaps to both you

56
00:02:43,720 --> 00:02:40,700
and mr. Schaefer is there any benefit in

57
00:02:46,569 --> 00:02:43,730
exploring a potential relationship with

58
00:02:50,369 --> 00:02:46,579
the University of Alaska to to perhaps

59
00:02:53,199 --> 00:02:50,379
take over the holiday Thank You senator

60
00:02:55,240 --> 00:02:53,209
the Air Force has gotten great value out

61
00:02:56,740 --> 00:02:55,250
of harp in the past who are you we took

62
00:02:58,869 --> 00:02:56,750
over from the Navy and managed it and

63
00:03:01,420 --> 00:02:58,879

actually did a number of experiment

64

00:03:03,430 --> 00:03:01,430

campaigns up there and have finished our

65

00:03:06,729 --> 00:03:03,440

work that we are interested in doing up

66

00:03:09,130 --> 00:03:06,739

there we've moving on to other ways of

67

00:03:11,229 --> 00:03:09,140

managing the ionosphere which the HAARP

68

00:03:13,030 --> 00:03:11,239

was really designed to do was to inject

69

00:03:15,819 --> 00:03:13,040

energy in the ionosphere be able to

70

00:03:18,940 --> 00:03:15,829

actually control it and but that work is

71

00:03:21,069 --> 00:03:18,950

has been completed the Air Force has

72

00:03:23,020 --> 00:03:21,079

maintained the site for other government

73

00:03:25,930 --> 00:03:23,030

agencies to use for several years now

74

00:03:27,909 --> 00:03:25,940

and with DARPA completing their project

75

00:03:30,250 --> 00:03:27,919

that's our last government customer that

76
00:03:32,710 --> 00:03:30,260
we have in the site we have put out a

77
00:03:35,589 --> 00:03:32,720
call government-wide for other agencies

78
00:03:38,140 --> 00:03:35,599
that had interest in in managing the

79
00:03:41,770 --> 00:03:38,150
site or are taking it over and including

80
00:03:43,839 --> 00:03:41,780
going out to academia and in seeing if

81
00:03:46,539 --> 00:03:43,849
there was an interest there and we have

82
00:03:51,129 --> 00:03:46,549
gotten interest from the University in

83
00:03:53,199 --> 00:03:51,139
Fairbanks however the the interest we

84
00:03:57,099 --> 00:03:53,209
have is that they will run it if we fund

85
00:03:58,990 --> 00:03:57,109
it which is unfortunately in this fiscal

86
00:04:01,270 --> 00:03:59,000
environment we're in right now this is

87
00:04:02,830 --> 00:04:01,280
not an area that we have any need for in

88
00:04:04,750 --> 00:04:02,840

the future and don't see that would be

89

00:04:07,869 --> 00:04:04,760

good use of Air Force SNT funds in the

90

00:04:09,400 --> 00:04:07,879

future so our position has been that if

91

00:04:12,520 --> 00:04:09,410

there's not somebody who wants to take

92

00:04:14,140 --> 00:04:12,530

over the management and the funding of

93

00:04:18,099 --> 00:04:14,150

the site then the Air Force has no

94

00:04:19,110 --> 00:04:18,109

future need and that we do plan to to do

95

00:04:21,310 --> 00:04:19,120

it

96

00:04:23,020 --> 00:04:21,320

dismantle of the the system in the

97

00:04:23,780 --> 00:04:23,030

future after we make appropriate

98

00:04:26,060 --> 00:04:23,790

notifications

99

00:04:27,980 --> 00:04:26,070

when you say in the future do you

100

00:04:29,870 --> 00:04:27,990

anticipate that it would be this summer

101
00:04:31,070 --> 00:04:29,880
then or would there perhaps be more time

102
00:04:32,720 --> 00:04:31,080
for the university to try to figure

103
00:04:34,910 --> 00:04:32,730
something out we would prefer to start

104
00:04:36,470 --> 00:04:34,920
this summer we would like to get the

105
00:04:38,840 --> 00:04:36,480
critical equipment out of the site

106
00:04:41,810 --> 00:04:38,850
before the winter the harsh winter in

107
00:04:44,270 --> 00:04:41,820
Alaska does lead to a very costly

108
00:04:46,670 --> 00:04:44,280
winterization to maintain the site and

109
00:04:49,660 --> 00:04:46,680
would like to avoid that if we can mr.

110
00:04:51,290 --> 00:04:49,670
Schafer if you have any comments on that

111
00:04:53,300 --> 00:04:51,300
yes ma'am

112
00:04:54,830 --> 00:04:53,310
so I'm torn on this because my

113
00:04:57,770 --> 00:04:54,840

background is as an atmospheric

114

00:05:00,890 --> 00:04:57,780

scientist and I think the facility is

115

00:05:02,960 --> 00:05:00,900

just a world-class facility that said

116

00:05:05,450 --> 00:05:02,970

we've worked very hard with the Air

117

00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:05,460

Force with the Office of Science and

118

00:05:11,630 --> 00:05:08,430

Technology Policy over the last 18 to 24

119

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:11,640

months to find another sponsor for this

120

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:14,010

because it really as you've heard that

121

00:05:18,590 --> 00:05:16,800

the other people at the table we the

122

00:05:20,840 --> 00:05:18,600

Department have gotten the research

123

00:05:22,730 --> 00:05:20,850

value out that we need for the facility

124

00:05:25,130 --> 00:05:22,740

we've also worked with University of

125

00:05:28,250 --> 00:05:25,140

Alaska Fairbanks to get some other

126

00:05:31,460 --> 00:05:28,260

person to pick up the long term just

127

00:05:34,760 --> 00:05:31,470

pure scientific research that harp harp

128

00:05:37,580 --> 00:05:34,770

offers the promise of but with all the

129

00:05:40,220 --> 00:05:37,590

other issues and problems and challenges

130

00:05:42,980 --> 00:05:40,230

facing the department at this time we

131

00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:42,990

just don't see that that investment over

132

00:05:48,230 --> 00:05:45,690

a long term period is where we would

133

00:05:50,060 --> 00:05:48,240

prioritize our investment so we've

134

00:05:53,510 --> 00:05:50,070

support we've been working with other

135

00:05:55,520 --> 00:05:53,520

agencies trying to get agencies like

136

00:05:58,400 --> 00:05:55,530

National Science Foundation apartment

137

00:06:01,400 --> 00:05:58,410

commerce who runs the national ocean and

138

00:06:04,070 --> 00:06:01,410

Atmospheric Administration to pick up