



Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Steven Chu Is Obama's Choice For Energy Secretary

Posted by [JoulesBurn](#) on December 11, 2008 - 10:02am

Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

It will be announced today that Dr. Steven Chu, Director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, is President-elect Barack Obama's choice for Secretary of Energy. Dr. Chu shared the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on laser cooling and trapping of atoms. Prior to becoming director of LBL, he was a professor at Stanford University and also worked at the former Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. For a more complete overview of his work, there is [this autobiography](#) or a rapidly-updated [Wikipedia](#) entry.

Reaching deep into The Oil Drum archives, commenter [Step Back pointed](#) to an audio presentation of a talk and interview with Dr. Chu in July 2005 at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, CA.:

- [Real Audio](#)
- [MP3](#)

Here is one excerpt:

So, I would say among America's most serious concerns, you could consider national security, which is now intimately tied to energy security and access to energy, the long term economic competitiveness of the United States, and the dangers of global warming. And I believe that this energy issues is at the center of all of these concerns, and thus I think it's the single most important problem (societal problem) that science has to solve. If you compare it to other things we invest heavily in - for example, investments in medicine, cures of heart disease, stroke, cancer - if we don't solve those problems, it would be tragic. But life would go on as we know it. If we don't solve this problem, life could really change.

This could be a very interesting choice.

Edit: The video below was pointed to by ericy:



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