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Erica S. Downs is a Fellow at the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution. Her research interests include China's overseas investment and lending, government-business relations in China, and energy governance and decision-making in China. Before joining Brookings, she served as an energy analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency. She has also worked as an analyst at the RAND Corporation and a lecturer at the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing, China. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. from Princeton University and a B.S. from Georgetown University.

Dr. Downs testified before the Commission in 2006, 2008, and 2011.