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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | April 14, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Statement at Hearing on the Fixed-Income Markets**  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), Chairman of the Economic Policy Subcommittee in the Senate Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs Committee, delivered the following opening statement during a joint sub-committee hearing on “[Examining Current Trends and Changes in the Fixed-Income Markets](http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=82821509-B74C-4ECA-83F8-1136FBDFD740).”  **Remarks as Prepared:**  I want to thank my fellow co-chairman, Senator Crapo, as well as both Ranking Members Senator Warner and Senator Warren for working with me on this joint sub-committee hearing. I think this shows there is a lot of interest in this subject.  The fixed-income markets are critical to the U.S. capital markets and our national economy. It may not be as exciting as the equity markets, but in Nevada, entities like the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Clark County School District and the cities of Las Vegas and Reno all rely on issuing bonds in the fixed-income markets.  The fixed-income markets in the U.S. are very large, and market liquidity is critical to having effective and functioning markets.  There is no doubt that the fixed-income markets are transforming.  There are early warning signs that fixed-income markets are becoming more fragile and less liquid than they used to be.  My fear is that sometime in the future, there is a major period of stress in the markets that causes significant deterioration in liquidity.  If unchecked, these liquidity problems could spill over into our economy.  The fact that this Congress, financial regulators and the private sector are evaluating the current state of liquidity in the fixed-income markets shows the growing concerns that the bond markets are not functioning as efficiently as in the past.  I believe that financial regulators need to devote more attention to the state of the fixed-income markets.  I think that we can improve the fixed-income markets while also ensuring proper safety and soundness.  My hope is that, moving forward, our collective agenda should be to preserve and restore liquidity in the markets.  I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.    ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |