



January 31, 2007

Welcome to the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter. This edition recaps the Committee's activities during the month of January, the first of the 110th Congress. Below you will find information on the Committee's efforts to help communities clean-up methamphetamine labs, boost science and math education and improve alternative fuel use--just to name a few.

The Committee on Science & Technology is grateful for your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Science & Technology

Science and Technology Committee begins 110th Congress

The Committee on Science began the New Year as the renamed [Committee on Science and Technology](#). **Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)** welcomed several new members to the Committee, and led them in the selection of [Subcommittee Chairmen and Members](#) on January 24. That meeting was also the [Committee's first mark-up of the 110th Congress](#).

Committee Advances First Legislation in New Congress

[H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007](#)

Chairman Bart Gordon re-introduced this bill early in the 110th Congress. HR 365 is designed to help communities clean-up former methamphetamine labs by having the Environmental Protection Agency develop model, voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines. The bill also directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to begin researching meth detection equipment for use in the field; and it requires the National Academy of Sciences to study the long-term health impact of exposure to meth labs on children and first-responders.

[H.R. 365 unanimously passed the Committee](#) and is expected to go to the House floor for consideration in early February.

[H. Res. 59, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Engineers Week](#), sponsored

by [Rep. Dan Lipinski \(D-IL\)](#) and [Rep. Bob Inglis \(R-SC\)](#), expresses the House's support for this honorary week (Feb. 18-24, 2007). [National Engineers Week](#) recognizes not only the contributions engineers have made to American life, but also aims to raise interest in engineering and technology careers and promotes literacy in math and science.

[H. Con. Res. 34, Honoring the Life of Percy Lavon Julian](#), sponsored by [Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson \(D-TX\)](#), honors the life accomplishments of Dr. Julian, a black chemist who overcame obstacles to earn a masters degree from Harvard and a doctorate from the University of Vienna. [Dr. Julian](#) is credited with the synthesis of a chemical treatment for glaucoma and also synthesizing cortisone for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

These two bills, H. Res. 59 and H. Con. Res. 34, both [passed the House unanimously on Jan. 31st](#).

In Research and Science Education News

American Competitiveness & Innovation: Chairman Gordon furthered efforts to boost American competitiveness in the global economy, re-introducing three bills he authored during the 109th Congress.

[H.R. 362, the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act](#), provides incentives for college students to commit to majoring in and later [teaching math, science, engineering or technology](#).

[H.R., the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act](#), authorizes a 10 percent increase per year in [funding for basic research in the physical sciences](#), mathematical sciences and engineering at the principal agencies, like the National Science Foundation, where that kind of research is conducted.

[H.R. 364, the Advanced Research Projects-Energy \(ARPA-E\) Act](#), establishes the agency, modeled after the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency. An [ARPA-E](#) would be charged with reducing U.S. dependence on oil through clean energy technologies. The agency would provide aggressive funding for innovative, out-of-the-box research projects, carried out by industry, universities and a consortia of groups, including federal laboratories.

These bills follow the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences' report, [Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future](#). They serve as the cornerstone of the Democrats' Innovation Agenda.

For more on Science and Math Education, [click here](#).

Legislative Activity

Transitioning to Alternative Fuels: With newly-appointed/elected [Chairman Nick Lampson \(D-TX\)](#) wielding the gavel, the Subcommittee on Energy & Environment held its [first hearing Tuesday, Jan. 30](#), on [H.R. 547, the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act](#).

[A mark-up](#) quickly followed today. The bill now advances to the full House.

[H.R. 547](#) is designed to make alternative fuels easier to access and use. The bill directs the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to initiate a research, development, and demonstration program to make alternative biobased fuels more compatible with present-day infrastructure.

On Tap Next Week

Full Committee Hearing, Feb. 8, 2007, 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

The State of Climate Change 2007: *The Findings of the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

The [Committee on Science & Technology website](#) is your clearinghouse for science and math education resources, science legislation, Member activities and much more. We hope you will find those resources helpful and continue to check the site for our latest additions and updates. We appreciate your feedback. Let us know how we might grow the site to better meet your science needs by logging your comments [here](#).