



April 30, 2007

Welcome to the April edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter. Below you will see how the Committee has continued its efforts to improve science and math education, increase basic scientific research and investigate activities within federal agencies.

The Committee appreciates 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

[Committee Innovation Legislation Advances in the House](#)

On [April 24](#), the full House passed two pieces of legislation key to the Democrats' Innovation Agenda. [H.R. 362](#), "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Math and Science Scholarship Act, and [H.R. 363](#), Sowing the Seeds Science & Engineering Research Act, both authored by Committee **Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)**, and approved by the Committee. [The bills are aimed at](#) improving and supporting the national corps of math and science teachers and strengthening U.S. basic research.

The bills are both based on the widely-regarded National Academies' "[Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#)" report, which found that the United States stands to lose its footing as a global economic leader unless certain actions are taken.

"Ultimately, these bills and ones like it that are part of the Democrats' Innovation Agenda, are designed to provide high quality jobs for hard working Americans and ensure that our children are ready for those jobs - that's what economic competitiveness and stability for generations to come is all about," said **Gordon**.

Energy & Environment Subcommittee Vice-Chair Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), led Members in considering an additional bill on the Democrats' Innovation Agenda, during an [April 26](#) hearing.

[H.R. 364](#), would establish the [Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy \(ARPA-E\)](#) within the Department of Energy. The bill is also based on recommendations from

the "Gathering Storm" report. ARPA-E, would be designed to support research for innovative, out-of-the box research projects aimed at decreasing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Competitiveness Remains the Focus in Reauthorizing Agencies

In continuing the committee's competitiveness efforts, the [full Committee also cleared bills](#) to reauthorize both the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, on [April 25](#).

[H.R. 1867](#), the *National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007*, was introduced by **Research & Science Education Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird (D-WA)**. The bill authorizes \$21 billion for the National Science Foundation for fiscal years 2008-2010.

The bill establishes a pilot program of one-year seed grants for new investigators to help improve funding rates for young investigators and stimulate higher-risk research; encourages NSF to foster relationships between academia and industry in order to spawn U.S. competitiveness and furthers the agency's traditions of education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

[H.R. 1868](#), the *Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007*, was introduced by **Technology & Innovation Subcommittee Chairman David Wu (D-OR)**. This is the [first full reauthorization](#) of programs at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology since 1991.

The legislation authorizes \$2.5 billion for NIST for fiscal years 2008-2010 and addresses one of the more significant issues surrounding the reauthorization, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a public-private partnership which leverages federal, state and private investments to implement and stimulate new manufacturing processes and technologies. Funding for MEP would be scheduled to double within 10 years.

Both bills are expected to be considered by the full House this week.

Committee Takes In-Depth Look at Global Warming

In an [April 17 hearing](#), Committee Members heard again from the world's leading climate change scientists on the looming impacts of global climate change.

The report, released on April 6, in Brussels Belgium, is titled "[Climate Change 2007: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)", prepared by Working Group II of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#).

[During the hearing](#), authors of that report testified to with high confidence that warming in the western mountains will lead to decreased snow pack; more winter flooding and reduced summer flows, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources; forests are projected to experience longer periods of high-fire risk; cities currently experiencing heat waves could expect them in greater frequency; and coastal communities and habitats will be increasingly affected by more intense tropical storms and increased infrastructure vulnerability.

Visit the new "[Facts on Climate Change](#)" special section of the Committee's website for more information.

Gordon, Miller Call for NASA IG's Job

Chairman Gordon and **Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller (D-NC)**, along with Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), [called for the removal](#) of NASA Inspector General Robert Cobb on [April 2](#).

The action resulted from a [report](#) from the Integrity Committee of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) that found Mr. Cobb had abused his authority by creating a hostile work environment and had created the appearance of a lack of independence in his relationships with top NASA officials and in his review of his staff's work.

The Members have made clear that they are preparing for [further action on this matter](#).

Legislative Activity

In addition to H.R. 1867 and H.R. 1868, the Committee also [reported three other bills](#) in April:

[H.Con.Res. 95](#), *Honoring the career and research accomplishments of Frances E. Allen, the 2006 recipient of the A.M. Turing Award*

[H.Res. 316](#), *Recognizing the accomplishments of Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather and George F. Smoot for being awarded Nobel Prizes in the fields of chemistry, physiology or medicine and physics.*

[H.Res. 252](#), *Recognizing the 45th anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.'s historic achievement in becoming the first United States astronaut to orbit the Earth*

Coming Up in the Committee:

The Committee continues its look into the global climate change phenomena with another hearing on May 16, this time from authors of the [IPCC Working Group III](#), "Mitigation of Climate Change."

Be sure to check the Science & Technology Committee's website for exact dates, times and locations for these and other events - <http://science.house.gov>.

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](#).