



February 28, 2007

Welcome to the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter. Below you will read about the Committee's many activities during the month of February from a hearing on global warming to a review of the proposed budget on scientific research and development.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bart'.

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

[Committee holds first Congressional hearing with authors of UN global warming report](#)

On Thursday February 8, **Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)** and other Members of the Science and Technology Committee [heard not only from the authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](#), but also from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on the status and cause of global warming. Both [Pelosi and Gordon](#) stressed the need for action.

The report, [Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change](#), was produced by 600 authors from 40 countries and reviewed by 113 governments. In the report, scientists note they are now 100 percent certain that global warming is occurring, and 90 percent certain that humans are the cause of it.

In coming months, the Committee on Science and Technology expects to play a key role in acting to address areas of needed information identified by the IPCC report. Specifically, [the Committee will work to set forth](#) a "better understanding of regional vulnerabilities to climate change."

The same day, [Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chair Mark Udall \(D-CO\)](#) introduced [H.R. 906](#). The [bipartisan legislation](#) is designed to strengthen and streamline federal climate change research.

[Chairman Prioritizes Competitiveness for Fiscal Year 2008 Budget](#)

On February 5, the Bush Administration submitted its budget request for Fiscal Year 2008. The almost \$3 trillion request includes \$142.6 billion for research and development.

At the Committee's [first budget hearing](#) of the season, Chairman Gordon [expressed his concern](#) that the proposed budget cuts \$15 million from K-12 education programs at the National Science Foundation, while proposing to create new requirements to the overburdened and underfunded No Child Left Behind Act.

Gordon was further concerned that the President's proposal cuts funding to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and eliminates the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) - both are programs with proven track records of aiding small businesses and creating jobs.

[Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman David Wu \(D-OR\)](#) also lead fellow members in a [hearing](#) on the NIST budget, including the [proposed cuts to MEP and ATP](#), on February 15.

Other Hearings

On February 12, the full [Committee met to examine](#) the state of U.S. weather forecasting and climate monitoring satellite systems. [Members heard from authors](#) of the National Academies report, *Earth Science and Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond*, also known as the Decadal Survey. The report details the state of affairs for the nation's Earth observation satellite monitoring systems, and makes recommendations for a prioritized set of investments in new satellite-borne instruments and spacecraft to gather earth, atmospheric and climate data.

The next day, [Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Chair Brad Miller \(D-NC\)](#) wielded the gavel during the [subcommittee's first hearing](#) of the 110th Congress, where [Members looked into Executive Order 12866](#). The order is a directive from the President giving the White House greater control in shaping rules that have primarily been generated by civil servants and scientific experts by putting the regulatory process at agencies under control of a political appointee.

Legislative Activity

Also in February, Members moved quickly to pass several bills within the Committee's jurisdiction.

[H.R. 365](#), the [Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2007](#), requires the Environmental Protection Agency to develop model, voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines for use by states and localities with the goal of making sure the sites of former meth labs are safe and livable. (Passed the House on February 7, 2007)

[H.R. 547](#), the [Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act](#), is the first targeted energy legislation cleared by the House this Congress. It authorizes \$10 million to initiate a research and development program to make biofuels more compatible with present-day infrastructure. (Passed the House on February 8, 2007)

[H.R. 363](#), [Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act](#), is one piece in a [package of innovation bills](#) reintroduced earlier this year by Chairman Gordon based upon the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences report, ["Rising Above the Gathering Storm."](#) (Passed the Committee on February 28, 2007)

[H.R. 85](#), [Energy Technology Transfer Act](#), offered by Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC) - would help move technologies for advanced energy

efficiency and renewable energy from the laboratory into the public domain where those technologies can be put to practical use. (Passed the Committee on February 28, 2007)

[H.R. 1068](#), [To amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991](#), is designed to improve planning and coordination for interagency research and development in information technology under the research program established by the High Performance Computing Act of 1991. Research and Science Education Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird (D-WA) [introduced the bill](#) with co-sponsor Rep. Judy Bigert (R-IL). (Passed the Committee on February 28, 2007)

[H.R. 1126](#), To reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 authorizes \$12 million/year for five years to fund advanced metals research. The measure was sponsored by the full Committee's Vice-Chairman, Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL), along with Rep. Todd Akin (R-MO) and Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI). (Passed the Committee on February 28, 2007)

Coming Up in the Committee:

Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Hearing, March 7, 2007, 2318 Rayburn - *The Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2008 Research and Development Budget Proposal*

Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation Hearing, March 8, 2007, 2318 Rayburn - *The Department of Homeland Security's R&D Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2008*

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education Hearing and Markup, March 8, 2007, 2318 Rayburn - *Improving the Laboratory Experience for America's High School Students and Mark-Up of HR 52, A bill to Establish a Laboratory Pilot Program at the National Science Foundation*

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics Hearing, March 9, 2007, 2318 Rayburn - *The Federal Aviation Administration's R&D Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2008*

Joint Subcommittee Hearing, March 21, 2007, 2123 Rayburn - Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, along with Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, will hear from Vice President Al Gore on climate change.

Watch WEBCASTS of all Committee hearings via our website - <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](#).