



May 30, 2007

Welcome to the May edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter. Here, you can read about the Committee's ongoing efforts to boost energy research, provide oversight on federal agencies within our jurisdiction and expand the development of healthcare information technology.

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

[Chairman Gordon's ARPA-E Legislation Clears Committee](#)

On [May 23](#), Members of the Science & Technology Committee passed [H.R. 364](#), to provide for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), [by a bipartisan vote](#).

The measure is the third piece of legislation to clear the Committee from [Gordon's innovation package](#).

"U.S. dependence on traditional energy sources and outdated technologies has put us in a perilous position - we can not afford to wait until we face severe disruptions to fossil energy supplies or serious impacts from climate change to address this challenge," **Gordon** said.

As amended, the measure authorizes \$4.9 billion for fiscal years 2008-2012 to establish an ARPA-E within the Department of Energy, modeled after the Department of Defense's DARPA. It is based on the recommendations made in the National Academies 2005 report, "*Rising Above the Gathering Storm*," which was written at the request of a bipartisan group of Congressional lawmakers, including Chairman Gordon.

The [mission of ARPA-E](#) would be to help decrease U.S. dependence on oil by rapidly developing and commercializing transformational, clean energy technologies. The agency would recruit the best and brightest science and technology researchers

and allow them unprecedented flexibility to develop cutting-edge technologies.

Committee Will Address Legislation to Increase Use of Healthcare/Patient Information Technologies

Chairman Gordon introduced [H.R. 2406](#), to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology to increase its efforts in support of the integration of the healthcare information enterprise in the United States.

[The bill](#) is based upon comments gathered from industry stake-holders, patient advocates and widely-acknowledged recommendations made by both the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee in their report, *Revolutionizing Healthcare through Information Technology* as well as the National Academies report, *Building a Better Delivery System: A New Engineering/Health Care Partnership*.

The adoption of electronic healthcare records and other health-related IT has been slow. In general the health care industry invests only about 2 percent of its revenues in IT. Other information intensive industries, such as financial services, invest approximately 10 percent of revenues.

House Passes Legislation Reauthorizing Programs at NIST, NSF

The beginning of the month was marked by the passage of two pieces of legislation to reauthorize several innovation and competitiveness programs at both the [National Science Foundation](#) and the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#).

[Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird \(D-WA\)](#) introduced [H.R. 1867](#), the *National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007*. The measure would keep NSF funding on a path to doubling in 10 years by providing \$16.4 billion for research. It would also allow NSF to foster relationships between academia and industry in order to spawn U.S. competitiveness as well as further 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 and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman David Wu \(D-OR\)](#). As the first full reauthorization of NIST programs in 15 years, the measure authorizes \$2.5 billion for NIST for fiscal years 2008-2010. Three major elements of H.R. 1868 are the funding of NIST labs, increased support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and replacing the Advanced Technology Program with the updated and improved Technology Innovation Program.

These two bills along with [H.R. 362](#), [H.R. 363](#) and [H.R. 1068](#) will now [move to conference](#) with Senate bill [S. 761](#), the *America COMPETES Act*.

Investigations & Oversight Subcommittee Holds First Hearing on NASA IG Investigation

Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller (D-NC) [questioned senior staff at NASA](#) about physically destroying records of a controversial meeting between NASA's Administrator Michael Griffin and Office of the Inspector General staff.

The [May 24 hearing](#) looked into the destruction of videos of a meeting Administrator Griffin had with the IG's staff, on April 10.

On [April 2](#), Miller, along with Chairman Gordon and Senate counterparts called for the removal of NASA's Inspector General Robert Cobb, after reviewing an [investigation report](#) from the Integrity Committee of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE). The report found that 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 Subcommittee is scheduled to hold a [joint hearing](#) with the Senate Subcommittee on Space Aeronautics and Related Sciences on Thursday, June 6 at 2 p.m to follow up on the PCIE's findings.

Legislative Activity

In addition to H.R. 364, the Committee reported three other bills in May:

[H.R. 1467](#), *the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act*

[H.R. 1716](#), *the Green Energy Education Act of 2007*

[H.R. 632](#), *the H-Prize Act of 2007*

Coming Up in the Committee:

The Committee will continue to look into the [NPOESS Satellite program](#) and address several pieces of energy research related legislation during the month of June.

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 continue to grow the site to better meet your science needs by logging your comments [here](#).