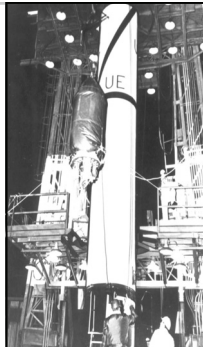


S & T Committee Celebrates its 50th Anniversary Throughout the 2008 Session

This year, the Committee will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its creation. Originally established as a select committee on March 5, 1958 to respond to the challenges presented by the space age, the Committee will mark this year long milestone in the same spirit in which it was founded—by continuing to address the emerging challenges facing our nation.



The Committee was established as a response to the Soviet *Sputnik* satellite launch and was the first new permanent House committee since 1892. Initially the Committee was focused on space exploration, but over time the jurisdiction expanded to include almost all non-defense federal scientific research and development.

Explorer 1, the United State's first satellite, was launched on January 31, 1958.

The Committee received authorization to move from a select body to a standing body on July 21, 1958 and by the start of the next session of Congress, the full standing Committee already played an important role in the Congress.

In detailing the Committee's agenda for the anniversary year ahead Chairman Gordon noted, "We must embrace the American Spirit of innovation if we are to protect U.S. global competitiveness, invest in math and science education, advance the development of energy technologies, address the threats of climate change, embrace the opportunities presented by nanotechnology, better protect our homeland, and ensure the continued success of all of NASA's missions. Each of these areas will take center stage on our agenda."

The Committee is also working to produce an historical record of the past 50 years of work done by the Committee which should be completed by late summer.

Also marking a 50th anniversary this year is the **Explorer 1 satellite**. Committee leaders remembered this event with the introduction of the [Explorer 1 Resolution](#) honoring this landmark day and the remarkable advances the U.S. space program has yielded.

[Read more on Committee History >>](#)

[Explore the Membership of the Committee from the 85th Congress through the present >>](#)

[Click here for an outline of the Committee's current jurisdiction >>](#)

<http://science.house.gov>

JANUARY 2008
E-NEWS

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the January 2008 edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter.

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



After the President's State of the Union Address [Chairman Bart Gordon](#) remarked how the 1st session of Congress for the Committee was one of the most productive and bipartisan in its history. The Committee's major accomplishments included [HR 2272](#), the **America COMPETES Act**—which is now law—and work on [HR 6](#), the **Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007**.

Page 1

To unsubscribe from E-NEWS updates from the S&T Committee, [click here](#).

Committee Demands Explanation from FEMA for Attempting to Control Health Survey

On [January 28](#), the **Energy and Environment Subcommittee** and the **Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee** officially asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to explain why they tried to manipulate the results of a study on the effects of human exposure to toxic substances, such as formaldehyde, in trailers supplied to displaced residents following Hurricane Katrina.

Currently, 40,000 trailers house Hurricane Katrina evacuees. In an effort to ensure the health of the families displaced by Katrina, **Committee Chairman Gordon**, along with **Subcommittee Chairmen Lampson** and **Miller** are seeking answers from Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Director Dr. Howard Frumkin as to why FEMA attempted to control the outcome of a health guidance report on formaldehyde in trailers used to house victims after Hurricane Katrina.

[Read the letter to Secretary Chertoff >>](#)

[Read the letter to Dr. Frumkin >>](#)

Chairman Comments on FutureGen

In response to the sudden decision by the Administration to pull their support for **FutureGen**, Chairman Gordon voiced his opinion on the situation. FutureGen is a cutting-edge program dedicated to coal-fired power production.

In 2003, the Administration presented it as an effective solution for addressing climate change and energy security issues. Over the past five years, FutureGen has rapidly developed into the highlight of the Department of Energy's clean coal technology program. The Committee will continue to keep close watch on this matter.

[Read the Chairman's comments on the Administration's decision to pull support for FutureGen here >>](#)

"Science Debate 2008" Gains Support

Chairman Gordon [recently joined](#) a group of Nobel laureates, university presidents, business leaders, and Members of Congress to urge a presidential debate be held focused on science and technology.

"Science Debate 2008" is a grassroots initiative aimed at urging a Presidential debate focused on the science and technology challenges facing the U.S.

"A debate on science and technology in this country must grow to be part of a national discussion on our future – and a presidential debate on the subject would put it front and center," said Gordon.

[Read more on the "Science Debate 2008" >>](#)

Coming Up in February...

The Technology and Innovation Subcommittee will markup [H.R. 3916](#), [H.R. 4847](#), and [H.R. 5161](#) during the first week of February.

On [February 7](#), the Research and Science Education Subcommittee will look into the visa process for foreign students and scholars.

Committee hearings reviewing the federal budget begin the week of February 11.

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>.

To unsubscribe from E-NEWS updates from the S&T Committee, [click here](#).