



June 29, 2007

Welcome to the June edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter. Here you can read more about the Committee's contributions to the House Energy Independence Day legislative initiative, the Chairman's steady focus on the offshoring of high-tech jobs and more.

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 Energy Legislation Takes Center State in House Energy Package

The **Science & Technology Committee** has reported 12 energy and environment research bills thus far this year, [seven of which](#) are expected to be included in the House Energy Independence Day Legislative Initiative outlined this week.

"For too long we have depended on a handful of finite resources to power our economy," said **Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)**. "Our future lies in our ability to develop a wide range of energy technologies using the cleanest natural resources from the sun, the oceans, and the earth. To do this we have to tap America's most abundant and renewable resource - the human spirit of innovation that has given us the quality of life we enjoy today."

The six energy-related measures passed this month alone include:

- [H.R. 2304](#), *Advanced Geothermal Energy Research and Development Act of 2007*, introduced by **Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA)**
- [H.R. 2313](#), *Marine Renewable Energy Research and Development Act of 2007*, introduced by **Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-OR)**
- [H.R. 906](#), *Global Climate Change Research Data and Management Act of 2007*, introduced by **Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairman Mark Udall (D-CO)**
- [H.R. 1933](#), *Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007*, introduced by Mr. Udall

- [H.R. 2773](#), *Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act*, introduced by **Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Nick Lampson (D-TX)**
- [H.R. 2774](#), *Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act of 2007*, introduced by **Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)**

An additional bill, [H.R. 364](#), *Establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy* authored by Chairman Gordon, cleared the Committee last month and is also included on the House energy initiative.

House Furthers Committee's Technology, Energy Research Legislation

Several measures designed to increase education in healthcare information technology and energy research passed the House of Representatives on [June 6](#).

Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman David Wu (D-OR)

introduced [H.R. 1467](#), *the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act*. The measure is designed to better educate and train healthcare professionals in using information technology (IT).

Committee Vice Chair Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) introduced [H.R. 632](#), *the H-Prize Act of 2007*. This bill would create a prize program at the Department of Energy (DOE) for advances in hydrogen technologies; the prize would be a tool to stimulate efforts to overcome technical hurdles in using hydrogen as a transportation fuel.

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) authored [H.R. 1716](#), *the Green Energy Education Act of 2007*. The bill would help universities to develop the next generation of engineers and architects to work effectively together to produce buildings incorporating the latest energy efficient technologies.

Each of these measures was [approved by the S&T Committee in May](#).

Committee Clears Legislation Reauthorizing R&D at FAA

Bolstering research and development within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the full Committee cleared [H.R. 2698](#), *the Federal Aviation Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2007*; the measure reauthorizes existing programs within the agency and establishes several new research initiatives.

"H.R. 2698 will help ensure that the FAA has the tools it needs to keep the nation's air transportation system safe, efficient and environmentally friendly," said **Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chair Mark Udall (D-CO)**, who introduced the bill.

The measure includes key features to strengthen the Joint Planning and Development Office, which is responsible for planning and developing the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The bill also authorizes \$1.88 billion for the FAA's R&D program for fiscal years 2008-2011.

Find out more about [HR 2698 here](#).

Miller Continues Investigation into NASA Inspector General

Members of the **Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight** joined **Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Space, Aeronautics and Related Sciences** in a [joint hearing](#) to review the case against NASA Inspector General Robert "Moose" Cobb.

While Chairman Gordon, **Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller (D-NC)** and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) have [called for Cobb's removal](#), he remains on the job

after a six-month investigation by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE). [That investigation](#) found that Cobb abused his authority and appeared to lack independence from NASA management.

During the [June 7 hearing](#), IG Cobb testified that the allegations against him are unjustified.

A week later, Chairman Miller and **Ranking Member James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI)** [urged Attorney General Alberto Gonzales](#) to investigate and possibly prosecute Michael Wholley, the general counsel of NASA, [for obstruction of justice and destruction of government records](#) from a NASA meeting held in relation to the investigation.

The Subcommittee is continuing its look into this matter.

[Gordon Continues to Focus on Offshoring High-Tech Jobs](#)

This month, Members [heard from a panel of experts](#) on the current state of technical jobs in the U.S., and on the implications of innovation offshoring for U.S. workers and the economy.

A recent University of Texas study found that of the 57 major announcements of locations of global telecom R&D facilities in the past year, more than 60 percent were located in Asia, versus 9 percent located in the U.S.

The [June 12 hearing](#) is a continuation of efforts in the 109th Congress when Committee Democrats successfully pursued the release of a taxpayer funded federal report on offshoring from the U.S. Department of Commerce. That report provided an in-depth analysis of the ongoing loss of U.S. high-tech jobs to lower wage environments.

Read more on the Committee's look into [Globalization and the American Workforce](#).

[Other Committee Hearings in the Past Month:](#)

- [June 5](#), *The Role of Technology in Reducing Illegal Filesharing: A University Perspective*
- [June 6](#), *Federal STEM Education Programs*
- [June 7](#), *Status Report on the NPOESS Weather Satellite System*
- [June 12](#), *The DuPont DP-2 Aircraft*
- [June 19](#), *The Role of Community Colleges and Industry in Meeting the Demand for Skilled Production Workers and Technicians in the 21st Century Economy*
- [June 26](#), *SBIR and STTR - How are the Programs Managed Today?*

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