

**Authorization and Oversight Plan
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
One Hundred Nineteenth Congress**

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology was first established as the Committee on Science and Astronautics on July 21, 1958, in a direct response to the Soviet Union's 1957 launch of Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite. The Committee was created to help the United States foster innovation and stay globally competitive in science and technology. The United States faces a new inflection point, as global competitors seek to surpass the U.S. in research and development (R&D) and emulate the success of our nation's system of innovation. The Science Committee's legislative and oversight efforts in the 119th Congress will all be focused on ensuring the U.S. remains the leader in R&D for our economic prosperity and national security and for the benefit of the next generation of all Americans.

House Rule X sets forth the legislative jurisdiction of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee while also assigning broad general oversight responsibilities (Appendix A). Rule X also assigns the Committee special oversight responsibility for "reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving non-military research and development." This provides the Committee with wide-ranging oversight authority over science and technology issues throughout the government.

The Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee coordinates and directs oversight activities across the Committee. However, oversight is conducted by every subcommittee. All components of the Committee take the oversight mandate seriously and work cooperatively to meet the Committee's oversight responsibilities.

The following agenda constitutes the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee for the 119th Congress. It includes areas which the full committee and subcommittees expect to address new and lapsed authorizations, as well as conduct reviews, oversight, and investigations. The Committee will address additional issues, events, and plans as they arise. The Committee will consult with other committees of the House as necessary.

AUTHORIZATIONS

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will review the authorizations of agencies and programs within its jurisdiction, and specifically with regard to lapsed authorizations, determine whether programs should be reauthorized, reformed, or terminated. Each subcommittee will conduct oversight of the programs and offices within their jurisdiction, including holding hearings and requesting information from the Executive Branch and stakeholders in order to gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

The Committee expects to reauthorize key federal science agencies and programs, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) space and research, engineering and development programs, the National Quantum Initiative (NQI), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), and offices within the Department of Energy (DOE).

These authorization activities will continue the work of the Committee in the last few Congresses to update and reform all science agencies and programs within the Committee's jurisdiction. This includes the Energy Act of 2020, which reauthorized many of the applied program offices within DOE, and the CHIPS and Science Act, which reauthorized the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), DOE Office of Science, and NASA.

In reauthorizing the agencies within its jurisdiction, the Committee seeks to improve accountability and transparency, secure research from foreign influence and theft, improve research coordination, reform programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research, and ensure constancy and clarity of mission and purpose. Additionally, the Committee will make certain that research across the federal agencies is not unnecessarily duplicative and that taxpayer resources are used in an efficient and effective manner. In all legislation, the Committee will continue to support the government, academic, and industry innovation ecosystem that has made the U.S. research enterprise the most successful in the world.

Energy

The Committee will continue to prioritize basic and fundamental energy research as well as public-private partnerships that move research from lab to market in order to ensure American energy security, reliability, and affordability. The Committee also seeks to advance U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and fusion energy.

The Committee will review and reauthorize programs or offices within the Department of Energy with lapsed authorizations, as appropriate. The Committee will seek to modify and refocus DOE activities with the goal of increasing opportunities for the private sector and better enabling researcher access to world-class DOE instruments and user facilities, including supercomputers and high intensity light sources.

The Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260) recognized the importance of a diverse portfolio of domestic energy sources by funding research and development into more efficient and cleaner use of fossil fuels, as well as nuclear, water, solar, wind, and geothermal power. With most authorizations in this clean energy package set to expire at the end of FY25, the Committee will evaluate the programs and activities conducted under the Energy Act's direction and seek to reauthorize the approaches that have proven successful to keeping prices for America's consumers and businesses low.

The Committee will also seek to authorize interagency partnerships between DOE and other federal agencies including NASA, NOAA, NSF and the Department of Agriculture (USDA), to leverage the assets of DOE to help address national challenges. The Committee will undertake efforts to reauthorize and refocus DOE cross-cutting programs to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively.

Environment

The Committee will prioritize legislation that promotes innovative solutions for environmental protection without burdensome regulations, improves weather forecasting, and ensures scientific integrity and transparency in the conduct and use of science that underpins government decision-making for environmental protection.

The Committee will review and reauthorize expired programs that protect life and property by addressing weather hazards. This includes programs authorized in the Weather Research and Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017, such as the Tornado Warning Improvement & Extension Program, Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program, the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Program, and the Commercial Data Program. The Committee will also review and reauthorize programs from the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 that have expired.

The Committee will review the research and development activities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA's research and development activities, largely conducted by the Office of Research and Development, are authorized by the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act, which has not been amended or updated since 1981. The Committee will seek to ensure that EPA's science activities are modernized and reflect the current state of the science.

Finally, the Committee will consider legislation to address the cross-agency challenges of forecasting, preparing for, and mitigating wildfires. The Committee will work with other committees of jurisdiction to improve data collection, dissemination, and coordination of resources to help state and local communities prepare for and fight wildfires.

Research and Technology

The Committee will continue to prioritize legislation that ensures U.S. competitiveness in emerging research and technology, supports a U.S. STEM workforce at all levels of education including a skilled-technical workforce, ensures the transfer of technology from lab to marketplace, protects U.S. research from foreign influence and theft, and improves coordination of research across the government.

The Committee will also review, update, and reauthorize as appropriate other key federal technology R&D programs that have lapsed or are due to expire. These programs include the National Quantum Initiative, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative, the National Nanotechnology Initiative, and the Networking and Information Technology Research Program. In updating these programs, the Committee will consider appropriate guardrails to protect this research from foreign influence and theft.

The Committee will also review and reauthorize R&D programs this Congress to address natural hazards such as the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

The Committee will continue its work to improve coordination of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and cyber (STEM) education activities across the federal government. The Committee will consider legislation to address the national need for a skilled-technical workforce prepared to support emerging U.S. industries like quantum, artificial intelligence, advanced semiconductors, and cybersecurity.

The Committee will review and consider legislative recommendations to update the Stevenson-Wydler Act, to improve the transfer of technology from government laboratories to the private sector for commercialization.

Space and Aeronautics

The Committee will consider legislation that supports a strong American aerospace industry, continued leadership in human spaceflight, exploration of new frontiers in planetary science, astronomy and astrophysics, the development of novel earth science capabilities, and policies that preserve U.S. leadership in space and aeronautics.

The Committee will prioritize a NASA reauthorization bill. The last comprehensive NASA authorization was signed into law in March 2017. During the 117th Congress, the CHIPS and Science Act included a narrower section authorizing certain NASA activities, however the language did not include any authorizations of appropriations for any programs. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will engage in a comprehensive review of each directorate at NASA and will develop a comprehensive NASA authorization.

The Committee will also consider legislation to support the commercial space sector, including bills that streamline the launch and reentry licensing process, support commercial remote sensing activities, improve space situational awareness, and ensure U.S. compliance with its international treaty obligations.

The Committee's jurisdiction includes FAA's research, engineering, and development (RE&D) programs. As part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Committee worked with other committees of jurisdiction to develop a FAA RE&D Title that provides updated congressional direction to FAA's RE&D activities and provided authorization levels to these activities through fiscal year 2028.

OVERSIGHT

Energy

The Committee will review and conduct vigorous oversight of all civilian research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities conducted by DOE in order to enhance energy security, reliability, and affordability.

The Committee will continue to conduct comprehensive oversight of DOE's implementation of the Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Committee will prioritize oversight of the additional \$86 billion in appropriations DOE received through the IIJA and IRA for program funding, infrastructure investments, and loan guarantees. The Committee will examine DOE's contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and abuse in these practices.

The Committee will conduct oversight of all federally owned or operated non-military national laboratories, including but not limited to laboratory management, research facilities, research infrastructure, and research priorities. The Committee will also examine the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management laboratory which requires additional oversight due to its unique government owned, government operated management structure.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight into DOE's research security and cybersecurity practices, to ensure the protection of DOE-funded research and the safety of DOE's national laboratories and user-facilities. The Committee will seek to increase its comprehensive understanding of the evolving threats to intellectual property and research theft.

The Committee will also look to increase its understanding of the impact artificial intelligence, and specifically data centers, will have on the grid and the vulnerabilities it creates.

Environment

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of the broad array of government and private sector programs engaged in environmental research, development, and demonstration. Broadly, the Committee will ensure that existing programs addressing climate change across the Federal government are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste of taxpayer resources.

NOAA Activities

The Committee will conduct oversight into NOAA and its programs. A major priority for the Committee will be oversight of Next Generation Satellite Systems. The Committee will continue to review the federal government's development, management, and operation of earth observations satellites at both NOAA and NASA. Previous modernization efforts have resulted in systems plagued with cost overruns, delays, and mismanagement that endanger American lives and property.

The Committee will continue its oversight of management and workforce issues at the National Weather Service (NWS), including issues with recruitment and retention. NWS serves a critical mission of protecting lives and properties; therefore, the sound management of its workforce, services, and technology should be a priority of the agency.

Severe storms, floods, fires, and hurricanes result in multi-billion-dollar events. The Committee will examine various issues surrounding these extreme weather events, including oversight of the science and data reporting associated with these hazards and how commercial data and solutions are being utilized or coordinated with federal efforts. The Committee will work to ensure that NOAA is seeking to increase the acquisition of commercial weather and environmental data and foster the growth of this innovative and cost-saving industry.

EPA Activities

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of EPA's management of science and its use of science in the promulgation of rules and regulations, including lab management, regulatory science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to better integrate science early in the regulatory decision-making process. This includes how EPA uses and manages scientific data to reach its regulatory conclusions and incidents where principles of scientific and analytical integrity were not met.

The Committee will continue its long-standing oversight of the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), which develops toxicological assessments that underpin regulations of toxic chemicals. A 2011 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report found multiple process issues at IRIS, some of which have not been addressed.

The Committee will work to ensure that EPA is using the best available science in its chemical policy decisions, and that other federal agencies like USDA and Department of Defense are equal and valued participants in an open, transparent process. The Committee will conduct oversight into EPA's implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Committee will prioritize oversight of the additional \$31

billion in appropriations EPA received through the IIJA and IRA for science-related activities and grants. The Committee will examine EPA's contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and abuse by recipients of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, the Committee will conduct oversight of EPA's Federal Advisory Committees to ensure that they are balanced and transparent.

Research and Technology

The Committee will continue oversight of all Research & Technology agencies and programs in its jurisdiction, including NSF, NIST, the White House Office of Science and Technology, and the CHIPS program. The Committee will also continue its broader oversight over technology issues like artificial intelligence and quantum information sciences and matters that impact the entire civilian R&D sector, including research security, safety and security of the STEM workforce, and public access to scientific publications.

National Science Foundation Activities

The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, including the establishment of the new directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships. The Committee will also conduct oversight over NSF's expansion of its research and security programs, including risk-assessment tools and new training requirements.

National Institute of Standards and Technology Activities

The Committee will conduct oversight of NIST, including how NIST balances new directives for research activities with its facility and infrastructure requirements.

The Director of NIST serves as the President's principal advisor on standards and chairs the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy, which advises Federal agencies on standards policy and plays a key role in fostering cooperation between the Federal government, industry, and private sector organizations. The Committee will conduct oversight on how NIST drives federal support of, and engagement in, industry-led standards development to bolster U.S. standards leadership.

The Committee will conduct oversight of NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) program and its fifty-one centers. NIST also coordinates the national network of Manufacturing USA institutes and funds the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). The Committee will conduct oversight on the coordination across Manufacturing USA Institutes and the operation of the Institutes that fall within its jurisdiction.

As directed in the National AI Initiative Act, NIST released an AI Risk Management Framework in 2023. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over the Framework, and its use by the federal government and the private sector.

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Activities

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) coordinates federal R&D policy across the federal government. The Committee will conduct oversight of directives to and from OSTP. The Committee will also conduct oversight over OSTP's coordination of activities in

artificial intelligence, quantum information science, high-performance computing, and climate research.

In 2022, OSTP released new guidance on public access to federally funded research, and directed federal research agencies to develop implementation plans to respond to that guidance. The Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of this guidance to ensure that the process is transparent and encourages all stakeholders to offer input.

Research Security Activities

Congress passed several new requirements related to research security, including new disclosure requirements, training requirements, and a prohibition on participation in malign foreign talent programs by federally funded researchers. The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of these laws by all federal research agencies, examine any gaps in the current laws, and review any unintended consequences from the new requirements.

CHIPS Act Activities

The CHIPS and Science Act authorized and provided \$50 billion in funding to support the reshoring of semiconductor manufacturing and packaging in the United States and research and development activities. NIST, under the Department of Commerce, implements these provisions. Oversight of the management of the program and the awarding of funds will be a high priority for the Committee.

Space

The Committee will review, and conduct oversight of all activities contemplated and authorized by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, as well as all other laws pertaining to the Committee's jurisdiction over space under Title 51 U.S. Code, and House Rule X.

NASA Activities

The Committee will continue its oversight of all NASA activities. The Committee will monitor and review all programs, projects, and activities for cost, schedule, and performance issues as well as for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

The Committee will prioritize oversight of the Artemis program to return humans to the Moon and then land on Mars. The Committee will continue to conduct vigorous oversight to ensure NASA stays on track to fulfill its mission to build the systems necessary to return U.S. astronauts to the Moon and land the first humans on Mars.

The Committee will also continue to review U.S. cooperation with other government agencies and international partners related to outer space.

Commercial Space

The Committee will continue to review commercial space activities, both public and private. This includes not only NASA's use of commercial space partnerships, but also the executive branch's use of existing regulatory authority granted by statute. Furthermore, as agencies seek

additional regulatory authority for space activities, the Committee will maintain rigorous oversight of its jurisdiction over “[a]stronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities,” and “outer space, including exploration and control thereof” as granted by House Rule X.

FAA Activities

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of all activities within the FAA’s Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), which licenses commercial launch and reentry activities, as well as spaceport operations. The Committee will focus on AST’s use of its authority to minimize the regulatory burden on commercial space operators while still maintaining safety for the uninvolved public.

Additionally, the Committee will oversee and review all of the FAA’s RE&D activities to ensure that they lead to improvements in the U.S. aerospace sector. The Committee will focus on FAA’s implementation of Title X of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which includes new and updated research and development activities for the agency.

General Oversight

The Committee will conduct an in-depth oversight audit of the programs in its jurisdiction to ensure that its robust and exhaustive oversight efforts continue to be effective. Specifically, the Committee will conduct oversight of inspectors general to ensure that they are actively working to combat waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; while at the same time ensuring that they are properly equipped, funded, and have the authorities necessary to complete their important investigations and audits.

The Committee stands ready to work with whistleblowers across the government in its oversight efforts. It will review whistleblower protections applicable to its jurisdiction and consider where expansions of such authorizations may be warranted to better protect those that come forward in an effort to make government better. The Committee will combat whistleblower retaliation and will keep the anonymity of whistleblowers that provide information to Congress.