

Wednesday, September 29, 10:00am

SST Member Day – Five Minutes

- Madam Chair, as one of the newest members of this committee, I want to extend my thanks to you and each of our colleagues on this committee. Since arriving in June, you have all have welcomed me and have helped me find my footing throughout a busy summer.
- I am excited to continue supporting the Committee's work this fall—which is vital to supporting and creating STEM jobs in New Mexico and across the country.
- New Mexico is the proud home of two Department of Energy national labs, including Sandia National Laboratories in my district.
- Our National Laboratories generate billions of dollars for our local economies, employ thousands of New Mexicans, and are cornerstones of our communities.
- This summer, I had the opportunity to tour Sandia to witness all of the amazing work our lab is doing firsthand.
- Sandia performs early-stage work in materials science, microelectronics, energy generation, energy storage,

computing, and other areas that will help tackle some of our nation's and communities' biggest challenges—including climate change.

- But to get these technologies from a concept of energy storage to a next-generation electric battery in the cars we drive every day means that our national labs need partners.
- We have a role to play right here in this committee to help transfer this technology funded by public dollars to be accessible to the general public. That's why I was proud to introduce the bipartisan Partnerships for Energy Security and Innovation Act with Representative Young Kim and with the support of the Chairwoman and Ranking Member.
- This bipartisan bill would create a nonprofit foundation for the U.S. Department of Energy built on previously successful models and championed by New Mexicans. It would channel research and innovation to institutions of higher education and private sector partners in alignment with the Department of Energy's mission.

- One of the most important benefits that the Foundation would provide to underserved communities—and the nation as a whole—is a mechanism for accelerating the transition to new energy technologies to market.
- My constituents have felt the impacts of climate change through an ongoing historic drought while others in the country have faced record-breaking heat, devastating hurricanes, and other extreme weather that demands we act now.
- We must act to get new energy technologies to the market and widely adopted to help fight climate change.
- The ability to leverage private sector and philanthropic contributions and pool resources from across a range of different sectors to quickly move new technologies to the market has been successfully implemented by other agencies.
- We will all benefit by bringing this same tactic to the Department of Energy.
- As you continue putting together this committee's research and technology competitiveness package, I ask that the committee include the Partnerships for Energy

Security and Innovation Act in an upcoming hearing and include it in the final package.