

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Full Committee Markup of S. 1254, Harmful Algal Blooms**

Chairman Smith: The first bill for today's mark-up is S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act.

This legislation was introduced by Senator Bill Nelson, chairman of the Senate's Science and Space Subcommittee.

Harmful algal blooms are a significant problem that affects rivers, lakes, and tidal areas around the country. Known most often as "red tide," harmful algae hurts local economies that are dependent on fishing, recreation and tourism.

Sometimes referred to as "dead zones," Hypoxia harms ecosystems and fish populations by decreasing oxygen levels in the water. Our current understanding and response to these problems is inadequate.

In my home state of Texas, red and brown tides often affect our bays and coastlines. This damages tourism, harms our fishing industry and impacts public health.

The bill before us today strengthens scientific research about these phenomena, fosters collaboration between federal agencies, states, and localities, and advances technological solutions to better understand and respond to outbreaks when they occur.

I want to commend our counterparts in the Senate, especially Senator Nelson, for bringing this important issue to us today.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Posey, and Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member, Ms. Bonamici, for the bipartisan amendment they will offer.

The bill before us is a good bill that incorporates input from Members on both sides of the aisle. I urge Members to support it.

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