



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2017

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Statement from Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.)
Full Committee Markup

Rep. Hultgren: Thank you chairman, and I appreciate your and the committee's work on this legislation.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues from Illinois, Reps. Foster and Lipinski, for their support on this legislation. And I commend the Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, Mr. Weber, and the gentleman from California, Mr. Knight, for their work on this bill and other legislation to maintain American leadership in research infrastructure.

I'd like to express my strong support for H.R. 4377, the Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act. This legislation authorizes priority research needs at our national laboratories and comes after extensive work with the scientific community, and the Department of Energy Advisory Committees, laying out a responsible path forward for America to maintain, and build on, our leadership role in scientific research.

Last night the American winners of this year's Nobel prizes visited Washington, D.C., and had a reception at the Ambassador of Sweden's residence. The Prize ceremony in Sweden will be early next month. We have the bulk of this year's winners, which is not unusual. The United States has nearly three times the number of Nobel Laureates than any other country. And this is not by chance. Before World War Two, most countries were neck-in-neck. After the war, America realized that leadership in science was vital for our national security as well as our competitiveness. It was our National Labs, born out of the Manhattan Project, that gave our research community access the tools which no one university or company could ever maintain.

This legislation continues our commitment to American leadership.

This bill authorizes construction of the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility, which this committee heard about when it was first proposed by the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel's P5 report. I was at the ground breaking of the far site in South Dakota earlier this year, and the international community has already pledge support for over 100 million dollars to be a part. This is an exciting time in science where more projects are becoming international, which we should build on.

Upgrades to the Advanced Photon Source (APS) maintain our leadership status in x-ray science, which have applications that have led to two Nobel prizes in chemistry, as well as treatments for HIV and improvements in advanced manufacturing. These upgrades are again responding to the research community, and APS is already serving more than 6,000 researchers every year.

Upgrades to the Oak Ridge Spallation Neutron Source were again called out by the Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee, calling these upgrades "absolutely central to contribute to world leading science." These upgrades would give the United States the most intense pulsed neutron beam in the world, serving researchers looking at material properties at the atomic level.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues for their work on this legislation and I urge passage by the committee as we try to bring this to the floor.

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