



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

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## **Statement from Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)** *Full Committee Markup*

**Chairman Smith:** Today we will consider three energy bills. Together, they prioritize basic science research, modernize and increase the productivity of the Department of Energy (DOE) national labs and enable the development of new technologies for the next generation.

The first bill is H.R. 5905, the Department of Energy Science and Innovation Act of 2018, sponsored by Energy Subcommittee Chairman Randy Weber and Rep. Zoe Lofgren. This legislation authorizes the basic research programs within the DOE Office of Science for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. It includes research in basic energy sciences, advanced scientific computing, high energy physics, biological and environmental research, fusion energy science and nuclear physics.

These basic research programs are the core mission of the department and will lead to scientific discoveries that will maintain U.S. leadership in technology.

This bill authorizes basic research programs in solar fuels, electricity storage, bioenergy research, exascale computing and low dose radiation. It also authorizes Office of Science funding for upgrades and construction of seven high-priority user facilities at DOE national labs. These infrastructure and program investments are crucial to ensuring America remains a leader in basic research and innovation.

This legislation is the product of over four years of bipartisan work by the Science Committee to advance basic research and set clear science priorities for the Department of Energy.

It builds on the achievements of the House passed H.R. 589, the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act, and incorporates four bipartisan Science Committee infrastructure bills that passed the House in February.

One example of the central missions authorized in the DOE Science and Innovation Act is the Exascale Computing Program. Developing an exascale system is critical to enabling scientific discovery, strengthening national security and promoting U.S. industrial competitiveness. Exascale computing will have real world benefits for

American industry and entice the best researchers in the world to conduct groundbreaking science at the DOE labs.

In order to strengthen U.S. energy independence, this legislation also provides support for fusion energy sciences. When commercial fusion becomes available, it will revolutionize the energy market and could significantly reduce global carbon emissions.

This bill authorizes funds for U.S. contributions to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, a critical step to achieving commercial fusion energy.

I again thank Rep. Weber as well as Rep. Lofgren for their long-standing support of basic research and investments in our world class science facilities at the DOE national labs.

The next energy bill is H.R. 5907, The National Innovation Modernization by Laboratory Empowerment (NIMBLE) Act.

This legislation directs the secretary to provide signature authority to the directors of the national laboratories, allowing lab directors to make decisions on cooperative agreements with industry where the total cost is less than \$1 million.

This provides the labs with more flexibility and removes red tape that makes it difficult for businesses to partner with the labs. DOE national labs can provide the private sector with access to research infrastructure as they develop new technologies. But a lengthy approval process can smother industry's interest. This bill gives the labs freedom to pursue agreements that will increase U.S. competitiveness and maintain our technology leadership.

I want to thank this bill's sponsors, Rep. Randy Hultgren and Rep. Ed Perlmutter, for their efforts on this initiative.

H.R. 5906, the ARPA-E Act of 2018 is our third energy bill today.

H.R. 5906, sponsored by Science Committee Vice Chairman Frank Lucas and Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson, establishes DOE policy for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) program.

This legislation expands the mission of ARPA-E, and allows the program to develop transformative science and technology solutions to address energy, environmental, economic and national security challenges. Notably, this includes allowing ARPA-E to develop technologies to address the management, clean-up, and disposal of nuclear waste.

This bill also maximizes the department's resources. It requires ARPA-E to coordinate with other DOE programs and avoid duplication and ensures that ARPA-E grants go to innovative technologies that would not otherwise be funded by the private sector.

Together, these three bills prioritize critical research and outline important reforms to DOE programs within Science Committee jurisdiction.

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