

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



For Immediate Release
January 27, 2015

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Business Meeting – Consideration of Committee Rules, Oversight Plan

Chairman Smith: Welcome everyone and thank you all for serving on this Committee. If we do our jobs right, we will increase productivity, raise Americans' standard of living, and create more jobs. The Science Committee oversees agency budgets totaling \$40 billion, much of which goes to research and development (R&D). So the Committee largely focuses on the future.

This Committee's jurisdiction over our Nation's "scientific research, development, and demonstration" makes possible America's technological innovations, industrial competitiveness, and space explorations.

We have 26 returning Members, 14 Republicans and 12 Democrats, for a 65% retention rate. On the majority side we welcome eight new Members. I hope that every Member, majority and minority alike, will find that this is an active and interesting Committee.

In the last Congress, the Committee held 99 hearings and approved 20 bills that subsequently passed on the House floor. Eighteen of these were bipartisan. Six became law. I hope we can build on this bipartisan success and do more in this Congress.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee, over 57 years, has expanded to include oversight of multiple agencies. These include NASA, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the White House Office of Science and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, other Department of Transportation R&D programs, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Fire Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others.

In this Congress, as in the last, the Committee will have five subcommittees: Energy, Environment, Oversight, Research and Technology, and Space. From reauthorizing NASA and advancing commercial space opportunities to advocating for robust basic research at the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy...from ensuring that transparent data can justify federal rules and regulations to improving weather forecasting and providing oversight of federal science program performance, we have much to do.

As members of the Committee, we all can promote legislation that advances America's interests in science, space, and technology.

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