



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

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Statement from Chairman Randy Weber (R-Texas)

Markup of H.R. 5905

Chairman Weber: Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my bill, H.R. 5905, the Department of Energy Science and Innovation Act of 2018.

This legislation authorizes the Department of Energy's Office of Science programs for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. It also authorizes upgrades and new construction of major user facilities at Department of Energy (DOE) national labs and universities.

Over the past four years, the Energy Subcommittee has held hearings, met with stakeholders, and worked extensively with our colleagues to draft the language included in today's legislation. We spoke with lab directors, DOE officials, academia and industry about the right priorities for the Office of Science.

The result was a series of bills that the Science Committee has advanced this Congress, including H.R. 589, H.R. 4376, H.R. 4377 and H.R. 4675.

The legislation we will consider today combines these bills to form a comprehensive, bipartisan authorization of the department's basic science research. This includes over \$6 billion in fundamental research and discovery science, largely performed at DOE national laboratories and user facilities around the country.

Two weeks ago, I, along with several of my Science Committee colleagues, had the opportunity to visit a number of these facilities at Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. We got to see first-hand the incredible work that these men and women do for our country and for the world. I have to agree with Secretary Perry when he testified before this committee earlier this month that these labs are "incubators of innovation, and they are among America's greatest treasures."

From high energy physics to advanced scientific computing, focusing on basic and fundamental research at our national labs provides the best opportunity for innovation and economic growth.

The DOE Science and Innovation Act authorizes funding for critical infrastructure projects at these national labs. In the Basic Energy Sciences program, it authorizes upgrades to world-leading x-ray light source facilities around the country, like the

Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory, and the LINAC Coherent Light Source at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory.

These facilities give American scientists the tools they need to study the structure and behavior of physical and biological materials, enabling innovation in many fields, including creating new materials for industry and developing new pharmaceuticals.

This legislation also authorizes the construction of new DOE research facilities in nuclear physics and high energy physics.

This includes construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) at Michigan State University, which will enable critical nuclear physics research across a wide breadth of fields, ranging from astrophysics to medicine, and the construction of the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility at Fermilab, an internationally coordinated project designed to build the world's highest intensity neutrino beam. The research at this facility will help shed light on the universe and its origins.

This bill also specifically authorizes basic research in fields that are critical to U.S. dominance in science and technology. It authorizes research in exascale computing, electricity storage and fusion energy sciences. It establishes a DOE Exascale Computing Program, a low dose radiation research program, and programs for managing our Energy Frontier Research Centers and Bioenergy Research Centers and ensures that we fulfill our commitments to the ITER project for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Significant investments in basic science research by foreign countries, like China, threaten America's global standing as the leader in scientific knowledge. To maintain our competitive advantage as a world leader in science, we must continue to support the research, and the research infrastructure, that will lead to next generation energy technologies.

H.R. 5905 is a common sense bill that will maintain American leadership in science. I want to thank Chairman Smith, Rep. Lofgren, Vice Chairman Lucas and many of my Science Committee colleagues for cosponsoring this important legislation. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with the members of this committee to guide research that will help America compete around the world.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and I yield back the balance of my time.

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