



COMMITTEE ON

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

REPUBLICANS Frank Lucas, Ranking Member

Floor Remarks of Ranking Member Frank Lucas

H.R. 5760, the Grid Security Research and Development Act

September 29th, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Last week, when the House considered the massive Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act, I expressed my disappointment with the partisan policies in the bill, with the rushed and irresponsible process of writing it, and, most of all - with the sheer number of missed legislative opportunities it represents.

This week, I'm glad to see that my friends across the aisle have taken heed of these words. The Science Committee has one of the best track records in Congress for passing productive, bipartisan legislation, and I'm pleased to see us upholding that tradition this afternoon.

Representative Bera's bill, H.R. 5760, the Grid Security Research and Development Act, is a truly bipartisan Science Committee product. It is cosponsored by Energy Subcommittee Ranking Member Weber, and it has gone through regular order. It is the result of thoughtful consideration, careful analysis, and substantial debate. I support its passage today.

Currently, the U.S. energy sector and its aging electric grid faces many critical challenges like higher demand, vulnerability to cyberattacks, and increased integration of new energy sources. It is our job in Congress to set the priorities to meet these challenges and focus our limited federal funds where we can see the best return on investment.

To deliver effective solutions, we must take the long-term and big picture approach. We must support early-stage research that will spur innovation over a broad range of

energy applications and provide for R&D to modernize and defend our critical energy infrastructure.

The bipartisan Grid Security Research and Development Act will strengthen our nation's electric grid against rapidly changing technological challenges. It authorizes the Department of Energy's vital cybersecurity and emergency response R&D activities and directs DOE to work with relevant Federal agencies to develop cybersecurity best practices.

Through the committee markup process, we were able to improve this legislation by adding a key research infrastructure provision from my comprehensive R&D legislation, H.R. 5685, the Securing American Leadership in Science and Technology Act.

This provision requires the Secretary to carry out a program of research, development, and demonstration of technologies and tools to help ensure the resilience and security of critical integrated grid infrastructures.

It also requires the Secretary to establish and operate a Critical Infrastructure Test Facility that allows for both physical and cyber performance testing to be conducted on large scale infrastructure systems.

This test facility will amplify and accelerate the high-priority research and development activities authorized in the original text and maximize the return on investment of taxpayer dollars.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my good friends across the aisle for working with us to come to an agreement on this provision and on this bill. I'm glad to see that we can come together to focus on our shared interest in improving U.S. national security and energy resilience for the next generation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and I reserve the balance of my time.