



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

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## **Statement from Steve Knight (R-Calif.)**

*Full Committee Markup*

**Vice Chairman Knight:** Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this important legislation.

H.R. 4376, the Department of Energy Research Infrastructure Act of 2017, authorizes upgrades and construction of major user facilities at Department of Energy (DOE) national labs and universities.

My bill will support the research infrastructure needed to conduct leading basic energy science and nuclear physics research initiatives here in the U.S.

The Advanced Light Source at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab is a specialized particle accelerator that generates bright beams of x-ray light for scientific research. The proposed upgrade to this facility will ensure that DOE can maintain ALS's status as a world-class x-ray facility, and allow scientists to study the structure and behavior of materials at extremely small scales.

The Linac Coherent Light Source is the world's first hard X-ray, free-electron laser. The proposed upgrade to this facility, located at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford University, will provide a major jump in imaging capability and will enable researchers to perform groundbreaking experiments in chemistry, materials, biology and energy.

The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University is a one-of-a-kind, linear accelerator user facility that will allow researchers to study rare isotopes and their properties. This facility will support research that expands our understanding of atomic structures, and could facilitate discoveries in medicine and physics.

The research infrastructure authorized by this legislation will open the door for American entrepreneurs to develop the next generation of technology, and train the next generation of researchers in chemistry, physics and materials science.

H.R. 4376 reaffirms the federal government's key role in basic research. My home state of California has long been a world leader in advanced science and technology and is home to millions of entrepreneurs eager to take advantage of the best research

facilities in the world. It's our job in Congress to make sure these facilities stay at the cutting edge of science, and keep the next generation of scientists and inventors here in the United States.

These key user facility upgrades will enable transformative discoveries in basic science, and will give the private sector the tools they need to develop breakthrough technologies in medicine, manufacturing and energy.

In Congress, it is our responsibility to take the long-term view and be patient, making smart investments that can lead to the next big discovery. My bill funds the research infrastructure necessary to make those discoveries possible.

I want to thank Rep. Dan Lipinski, Chairman Lamar Smith, Energy Subcommittee Chairman Randy Weber and Rep. Randy Hultgren for joining me as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

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

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