



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

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Statement of Research & Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Comstock (R-Va.)
A Review of Recommendations for NSF Project Management Reform

Chairwoman Comstock: Good Morning. Today we will be reviewing recommendations made by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) on how to improve the National Science Foundation's management of cooperative agreements to support the development and construction of large-scale research projects.

NSF and the National Science Board commissioned the study in response to concerns raised by this Committee, the NSF Inspector General and others regarding NSF's management and oversight of cooperative agreements, and proper stewardship of federal funds.

NAPA assembled a committee that conducted an 8-month review of NSF's practices and looked at how other science funding agencies like NASA and the Department of Energy Office of Science manage similar projects.

One of our Committee's most important responsibilities is to ensure that federal science agencies spend taxpayer dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible. Every dollar wasted on mismanagement is a dollar that could be spent on groundbreaking basic research or training future scientists.

Our Committee has held two hearings over the last year on NSF's management of major projects, like the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and the LSST Telescope.

These hearings have revealed that NSF needs to do more to ensure that taxpayer funding is not wasted on mismanagement and abuse.

The NAPA study committee has provided 13 thoughtful recommendations for NSF. I look forward to hearing testimony on those ideas. I also look forward to hearing from NSF on how the Foundation plans to respond, and from the Inspector General on her thoughts about how some of these changes could prevent problems found in past audits of cooperative agreements.

Together, I hope we can work towards ensuring taxpayer dollars well managed. American leadership in science and innovation is the key to our nation's future

economic prosperity and security. We want to be strong advocates for federal support of basic research that advances science in the national interest, but we can only invest more in research if taxpayers have faith and confidence that their money is being spent wisely.

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