

Opening Statement
The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX)
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology
Mark-up

- *H.R. 2020, Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009*
- *H.R. 1709, Federal STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009*
- *H.R. 1736, International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009*

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for scheduling this mark-up and for the bipartisan spirit in which the bills before us today have been handled. It would appear that we are doing a great deal of coordinating today. In addition to authorizing the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program, we are also marking-up legislation to improve STEM education coordination among the federal agencies and a bill to help coordinate science and technology initiatives that can help foster international cooperation.

All of these bills do exactly what this Committee should be doing, ensuring that our government is effectively and efficiently using federal science and technology dollars to guarantee we stay on top of cutting edge research both domestically and internationally, while continuing to develop the best and brightest STEM workforce for our future.

I am pleased to join you as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2020, the NITRD Authorization Act, and H.R. 1709, the Federal STEM Education Coordination Act. I want to also thank you for maintaining regular order with both H.R. 1709 and H.R. 1736 and giving everyone the opportunity to work on these at the subcommittee level first. When it comes to STEM education, in particular, I think we are all better served to have Dr. Ehlers involved from the beginning, as he brings so much to the table.

I know both of our staffs have worked diligently to get these bills to where we are today, and I look forward to a discussion of proposed amendments.