



## S&T Committee Urges Full Funding of Landmark COMPETES Act

In budget hearings this month, Chairman Bart Gordon and Committee Members continued their push for funding of provisions within the landmark COMPETES Act.

The COMPETES Act, authored by **Chairman Gordon** and signed into law last fall, strives to ensure America's students, teachers and businesses remain competitive in science, technology, innovation, and research.



Chairman Gordon questioning Dr. Marburger.

During the various agency budget hearings, Committee Members had the opportunity to question Administration officials such as Dr. John H. Marburger III, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

"This year, we have the ability to renew our commitment to U.S. global competitiveness and innovation, just as we did after the launch of Sputnik 50 years ago," said **Gordon**—and he assured that Committee Members will continue to be the strongest possible advocates for funding of COMPETES programs.

This month, the Committee also held hearings to review the FY09 budget proposals of NASA, NSF, and NOAA.

[Read more on these hearings>>](#)

## Gordon Urges NRC to Prohibit Foreign Waste Dumping in the U.S.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a bid to process and dispose 20,000 tons of Italy's low-level radioactive waste.

Chairman Gordon has been a consistent and strong advocate against the U.S. becoming the world's foreign waste repository. On February 12, Gordon wrote a letter to Mr. Dale Klein, Chairman of the NRC, strongly stating his opposition to the disposal of foreign radioactive waste in the United States.

"Congress never intended this, and no other country in the world has offered up its own disposal sites to whoever wants to come. The United States cannot be put in this position based on the revenue aspirations of a single company," said **Gordon**. "This is not how a democracy should function."

[Read more on this issue here >>](#)

## FEBRUARY 2008 E-NEWS

### Change of Address

Due to recent renovations, the Committee's new main office address is now **2321 Rayburn House Office Bldg.**

### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the February 2008 edition of the House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter.

As always, the Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also sign up to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,  
Chairman,  
House Committee on  
Science & Technology

### Additional February Agenda Items

Feb. 7, 2008 — Hearing on *Visas for Foreign Scholars and Students*

Feb. 7, 2008 — *Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Markup of H.R. 3916, H.R. 4847, H.R. 5161*

Feb. 29, 2008 — Field Hearing on *Energizing Houston — Sustainability, Technological Innovation, and Growth in the Energy Capitol of the World*

## Committee Clears Green Transportation, Fire Safety & Border Security Legislation

During the first full Committee mark-up of legislation this session ([February 27](#)) Committee Members cleared three bills referred from the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee aimed at improving the environment, public safety, and national security.

The Committee approved: [H.R. 5161](#), the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act*; [H.R. 4847](#), the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008*; and [H.R. 3916](#), the *Border Security Technology Innovation Act of 2008*.

[H.R. 5161](#), authorizes education and research programs within the Federal Highway Administration and the Research Innovative Technology Administration's University Transportation Centers program.

[H.R. 4847](#) continues to provide the nation's fire service community with the federal government's support by reauthorizing the U.S. Fire Administration through FY2012.



[H.R. 3916](#) seeks to provide the Department of Homeland Security with the necessary technology to assist them with their long-term security goals.

Chairman Gordon, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, Rep. Jerry McNerney, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Rep. Laura Richardson, and Rep. Harry Mitchell at the markup on [February 27, 2008](#).

## Committee Continues Investigation of Toxic FEMA Trailers

During the past few months the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee and the Energy and Environment Subcommittee have been looking into why the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency tried to control the outcome of a health guidance report on formaldehyde in trailers used to house victims of Hurricane Katrina. That investigation will culminate in a Subcommittee hearing in March where witnesses from various aspects of the issue will testify.

[Recently](#), Chairman Gordon and Committee leaders demanded that Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the CDC and also the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), take steps to protect Dr. Christopher De Rosa, former director of ATSDR's Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine from what they labeled as retaliatory actions by senior ATSDR management for his whistle blowing in light of information the CDC came to know regarding the trailer toxins. [In January](#), Committee leaders also accused FEMA of manipulating scientific research in order to play down the danger posed by formaldehyde in the trailers.

Check the Committee's website for more on this investigation, as well as information on the March hearing as it comes available.

## Looking Ahead

Committee Members will resume agency budget hearings on [March 5](#) (DOE) and [March 6](#) (DHS). In addition, the Committee will examine NASA's science programs, nanomanufacturing and continue their look at U.S. competitiveness and innovation throughout March. Visit the Science & Technology Committee's website for exact dates, times and locations for these and other events - <http://science.house.gov>.

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