



## House Passes NASA Reauthorization

On [June 18](#), the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved [H.R. 6063](#), the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008*, by a vote of 409 to 15.

NASA's current authorization expires on September 30, 2008 and [H.R. 6063](#) is a one-year reauthorization to guide the next Administration through FY09. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by **Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairman Mark Udall** and originally cosponsored by **Chairman Bart Gordon**, Ranking Member Ralph Hall, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Feeney.



**Subcommittee Chairman Udall at the Full Committee Markup of H.R. 6063 on June 4, 2008.**

“H.R. 6063 will help point NASA towards a more productive and sustainable future,” stated **Udall**. “NASA should be — and I believe is — an agency that can be a strong catalyst for dealing with important national concerns and this bill helps emphasize that. Moreover, this legislation includes substantive measures to help realize the synergies achievable between government and the private sector.”

[Read more about the passage of the NASA bill >>](#)

[Read more about H.R. 6063 >>](#)

## JUNE 2008 E-NEWS



Rep. André Carson is welcomed to the S&T Committee at a markup on June 26.

## Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the June 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

## Members Explored Ways to Reduce the Costs & Environmental Impact of Transportation

On [June 24](#), the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing to reviewed the current R&D of surface transportation infrastructure, such as roads, freeways, and stoplights, to improve sustainability and reduce the environmental footprint.



Rep. Wu discusses the impact of transportation on our the environment with witnesses, [Mr. Paul Brubaker](#) and [Dr. Robert Bertini](#), before the hearing on June 24, 2008.

“The cause of rising gas prices is another debate, but one thing we all agree on is that we must take action to help reduce the cost of transportation for families across the country,” said **Subcommittee Chairman David Wu**. “We can reduce fuel consumption and promote sustainability through changes to the transportation infrastructure.”

[Read more about this hearing >](#)

## Additional June Agenda Items

[June 5](#) — *The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act: H.R. 4174*

[June 10](#) — *Hybrid Technologies for Medium- to Heavy-Duty Commercial Trucks*

[June 18](#) — *Energy and Environment Subcommittee Markup [H.R. 4147](#), [H.R. 5618](#), and [H.R. 6323](#)*

[June 19](#) — *An Insecure Forecast for Continuity of Climate and Weather Data: The NPOESS Weather Satellite Program*

[June 24](#) — *American Decline or Renewal? (Part 2): The Past and Future of Skilled Work*

[June 26](#) — *The State of Hurricane Research and H.R. 2407, The National Hurricane Research Initiative Act 2007*

[June 26](#) — *Investigation and Oversight Business Meeting*

## Committee Approves Bills to Research Ocean Acidification and Improve the Sea Grant Program

In a bipartisan effort, Committee Members passed [H.R. 4174](#), the *Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007*, and [H.R. 5618](#), the *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008*, at [a markup](#) on June 25.

Ocean acidification is another phenomenon due to the increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. [H.R. 4174](#) directs an interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Technology to oversee the planning and coordination of an interagency research and monitoring program to understand the potential impacts of ocean acidification, improve marine ecosystems, and establish techniques to conserve marine ecosystems.

The Sea Grant program is a state and federal program that promotes the understanding, conservation, and management of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. [H.R. 5618](#), would implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences 2006 review of the Sea Grant Program. The changes include increasing funding levels and the interaction between the National Sea Grant Program and the individual state programs.



[Rep. Todd Akin \(R-MO\)](#), [Rep. Roscoe Bartlett \(R-MD\)](#), and [Rep. David Wu \(D-OR\)](#) work in a bipartisan effort and unanimously passed new language at a markup on June 25.

"The research, education, and extension programs of Sea Grant have been very effective in training future scientists and resource managers, providing education to the general public, generating information to support sound resource management, and delivering applied research results to the people who rely on our coastal areas and the Great Lakes for their livelihoods," stated **Chairman Bart Gordon**.

## Committee Continues Investigation of the EPA's IRIS Program

On [June 12](#), the Investigation and Oversight Subcommittee held a second hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) IRIS. Subcommittee Members heard testimony on the human impact when scientific integrity of EPA's public chemical database, IRIS, is compromised. Local authorities rely on IRIS to determine how to respond when chemicals are detected in a community.



Subcommittee Chairman Miller questioning a witness at the hearing on [June 12, 2008](#).

In addition, Subcommittee is looking into the Administration's efforts to slow the completion and release of the chemical assessments in IRIS. On [June 11](#), **Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller** sent a letter to the White House requesting the documentation related to the extremely delayed assessment of the safety of chemical TCE.

[Read more about this hearing >>](#)

[Read more about Subcommittee Chairman Miller's letter >>](#)

## Looking Ahead...

In early July, the Committee will markup water legislation and hold a hearing to discuss the harm caused by algal blooms.

Visit the [Committee's website](#) for the exact dates, times, and locations of these and other upcoming Committee events.

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