



Committee Hears that COMPETES is Vital to American Workforce

On [January 20](#), the Full Committee held a hearing to discuss the roles science and technology play in promoting economic security and maintaining U.S. competitiveness in the 21st century global economy with business community leaders. Committee Members will incorporate witness input in the reauthorization of the [America COMPETES Act](#).



Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Vice Chairwoman Kathy Dahlkemper questioning a witness at the hearing. (L to R): Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Vice Chairman Ben Ray Luján, Rep. Dahlkemper, and Rep. Suzanne Kosmas.

Committee Members heard testimony from [John Castellan](#), President of the Business Roundtable, [Governor John Engler](#), President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers, [Thomas Donohue](#), President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, and [Deborah Wince-Smith](#), President and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness. All of the witnesses strongly support the [America COMPETES Act](#) and commented on its role in fostering innovation and strengthening the American competitiveness in the global market place.

[Read more about COMPETES >>](#)

Committee Announces 2010 Agenda

On [January 19](#), Committee Chairman Bart Gordon announced the Committee's [legislative agenda](#) for the 2nd session of the 111th Congress. Reauthorizing the [America COMPETES Act](#) (P.L. 110-69) is at the forefront of the Committee's agenda. Chairman Gordon also announced his intention to move a NASA reauthorization bill.

In addition, Chairman Gordon discussed his intention to continue the Committee's work on advancing energy technologies. The Committee will work on legislation dealing with R&D involving nuclear energy, and marine and hydrokinetic energy, as well as energy efficiency and conservation technologies.

"We need to be looking at many different avenues to help us meet our growing need for energy, to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and to help the U.S. gain the advantage in the new industries and the jobs that go along with them," said **Chairman Gordon**.

[Read more about the Committee's agenda >>](#)

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Chairman Bart Gordon supports the White House's effort to [improve math and science education through public-private partnerships](#).

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the January edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter](#).

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,
U.S. House Committee

January Hearings:

[January 20](#) — *America COMPETES: Big Picture Perspectives on the Need for Innovation, Investments in R&D and a Commitment to STEM Education*

[January 21](#) — *Commerce Department Programs to Support Job Creation and Innovation at Small- & Medium-Sized Manufactures*

[January 27](#) — *The Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E): Assessing the Agency's Progress and Promise in Transforming the U.S. Energy Innovation System*

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Committee Discusses ARPA-E's Accomplishments and Future

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On January 27, the Full Committee reviewed the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy's (ARPA-E) current and future role in the larger energy technology landscape. As part of the *America COMPETES Act*, ARPA-E was created as an agency within the Department of Energy (DOE) tasked with bringing together the best and brightest from all sectors to pursue high-risk, high-reward energy technology development.

House Passes S&T Legislation

On December 28, H.R. 3819, the *Commercial Space Transportation Liability Regime Extension*, was signed into law (P.L. 111-125) by President Obama.

The first Funding Opportunity Announcement, in April 2009, received an unprecedented response of almost 3,700 concept papers. Ultimately, 37 projects were chosen from 334 finalists to receive a total of over \$150 million in awards. Since there are more good ideas than ARPA-E's funding can accommodate, Chairman Gordon is working with Secretary Steven Chu and Director Arun Majumdar to create a forum in which finalists and awardees can present their proposals and meet with potential investors. The first forum, the ARPA-E Innovation Summit, is March 1-3 at the Gaylord Convention Center in Maryland.

[Read more >>](#)

[Read more about the Committee's work on ARPA-E>>](#)



On January 13, Chairman Bart Gordon attended a swearing-in ceremony at DOE. (From L to R): Director Arun Majumdar, Chairman Gordon, and Secretary Steven Chu.

Subcommittee Examines Ways to Spur Innovation and Job Creation

On January 21, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing to discuss the challenges small- and medium-sized manufacturers are currently facing. Specifically, Subcommittee Members reviewed the Department of Commerce's programs and initiatives to support entrepreneurship and bolster job creation and retention. Witnesses stressed the value of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which is a network of centers that advise manufacturers on how to improve their competitiveness. MEP is a program within the DOC's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and was reauthorized in the 2007 *America COMPETES Act*.



Subcommittee Chairman Davis Wu meeting Ms. Jennifer Owens, a witness, before the hearing.

Report Findings

On January 12, the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable released a report which found common ground in efforts to balance scholarly publishing and public access, specifically the public availability of peer-reviewed journal articles containing data and findings from federal research grants.

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Looking Ahead

In early February, the Committee will hold hearings on passenger screening R&D at DHS, key issues facing NASA, strengthening undergraduate and graduate STEM education, and geoengineering. Please visit the Committee's website for more information and the dates and times of upcoming events.

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